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RECORD CROWDS BECKON

ALL SYDNEY GRAND FINAL STILL ON



Marconi played host to Northern Spirit last Sunday: the Stallions got the one goal win which was enough to keep their hopes of a Grand Final appearance alive

Photo by Carlos Furtado

LAST weekend was more or less according to the bookies script; home wins for Perth, South Melbourne and Marconi Fairfield.

Anything else would have been a major surprise and it still sees two teams on course for the first all Sydney Grad Final for some time.

Soccer Australia has taken the chance out of things, however, by booking two venues already.

If a Melbourne Grand Final is to be played the big match will be at Olympic Park while Parramatta Stadium has been set aside for a

Sydney event.

With the format for next season's NSL still not totally decided soccer fans could get an early taste of action at Parramatta – the planned home of the new Parramatta Leagues Club-backed side.

But before the speculation mounts for that prospect there is still a lot of football to be played.

Sydney United play host to South Melbourne this Sunday in a game in which only one goal for the home side will be enough.

The Lakeside team might have pre-

by Bruce Campbell

served their almost two year unbeaten home ground record but they will be well aware that a task of keeping Sydney United scoreless at Edensor Park is a huge one.

In fact, it is almost mountain like and that could well be enough to see the Pumas through to their second Grand Final in three seasons.

A win for the Pumas will seal Parramatta Stadium as the Grand Final venue and give Sydney its first big date since 1993 when the then Frank

Arok led Marconi got up over Adelaide City with a doubtful penalty.

Marconi kept their own chances alive by knocking out Northern Spirit who had already more likely played their own Grand Final the weekend before when they held the Stallions scoreless in front of an elimination finals record.

That record was smashed by Perth against Adelaide City last Saturday at the WACA when they eliminated Adelaide City.

Although another 25,000 crowd is expected this Saturday, it could be a

similar case of a 'Grand Final' already played and it would come as no great shock if Marconi won that tie. That would set the Stallions up for a ninety minute do-or-die encounter against South Melbourne – just one step away from that all-Sydney Grand Final.

But there is a lot to play for in both matches which should ensure that the attendance records just keep on tumbling. And while only fools predict soccer matches the dumb money is on Marconi and Sydney United.

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Former Ranger steps into Carlton hot seat

by David Arnold

EDDIE Krncevic, who led Carlton to the Grand Final in their first year of existence, did not have his contract renewed by the Carlton Soccer Club last week and has been replaced by former Glasgow Rangers player Stuart Munro.

The decision to replace Krncevic, a unanimous vote by the full board, is the result of a comprehensive review into the club's 1998-1999 campaign.

Krncevic put forward a three-year proposal to Carlton GM Lou Sticca and Chairman Peter Jess on Monday last week, which was rejected.

The club issued a press release the following morning which confirmed Krncevic's two year, sweet-bitter reign at the club had come to an end.

The Melbourne media has speculated internal conflicts between Lou Sticca and Eddie Krncevic were a major reason for the non-renewal of

contract.

But both men have resolved their differences and indeed spent the last week wishing each other the best for the future.

Krncevic had returned from a fabulous overseas career, with a FIFA coaching badge and young family in tow, to the Gippsland Falcons to conclude his playing days.

After missing out on the Collingwood coaching position, Krncevic was toying about becoming a player agent, but applied for the Carlton position instead.

He beat Gary Cole and Alan Davidson to become the club's inaugural coach in 1997, and has reserved a place in CSC's folklore.

"Eddie has a special place in the history of the club, being our first coach," Lou Sticca said.

Nobody will forget Carlton's dramatic comebacks in 1998, roaring into the Top Six, defeating South Melbourne 5-0 at Bob Jane, and the dramatic Grand Final which

capped a superlative inaugural season.

This season has been an entirely different story and Krncevic's apparent failure, in which he allegedly lost the support of senior players due to his selection policy.

Publicly questioning the abilities of his players also contributed to dressing room unease.

Speculation has reigned over his replacement, with Ian Dobson, Alex Miller and David Mitchell the early front-runners for the job, but were beaten to the job by a relative outsider.

36-year-old Stuart Munro will be appointed to the job and is expected to assist the club in bringing high-quality players from overseas, obviously a major factor in his appointment.

The new man has a long and storied playing career, starting at Scottish club St. Mirren and moving onto Alloa, hitting eight goals in 60 games.

He reached the top with Glasgow Rangers, winning four championships

in the Graeme Souness heyday, playing alongside some of the great names - Cooper, McCoist, Gough and Goram in that club's run of success.

Munro, married to an Australian, moved to Australia to play for Sydney United in the 1997/98 campaign before taking on the coaching position at Gippsland last year.

After initial success, which attracted the attention of national dailies, the lack of quality players was to prove a major stumbling block as the club went through a rocky period.

The Falcons recovered somewhat, getting five draws against quality opposition to finish their season, and to clinch for Munro the Carlton job.

All the pressure is now on Munro, going from a team with low expectations, to a club which will demand - even expect - top two placings year in and out.

This was Eddie Krncevic's failing.

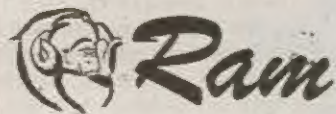


FORMER Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic said he was not bitter at his axing from Carlton but admitted he had no immediate prospect of a job in Australia. He has had offers from overseas but said he would rather stay in Australia.

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Rufer to lead ambitious Kings

AS FORECAST in last week's *Inside Soccer* the Auckland Kings have arrived - and they have appointed international hero Wynton Rufer as their coach.

Kings chairman Chris Turner has announced the new club had been officially accepted into the Australian national soccer league and will take part in the 1999-2000 season.

He said the club would be based at the new North Harbour Stadium in Auckland, had finalised a five year licence agreement with Soccer Australia and that Rufer would be the player-coach.

Rufer is believed to have been offered a \$NZ90,000 (\$A76,300) package to coach the North Harbour-based side in its debut year in the NSL.

"We'll have a squad of 20, using our option for five imports in the first

season and intend to be as competitive as possible from day one," Turner said from Auckland.

"More than 30 players, including our overseas contingent have already made approaches to join the club and there could be some from Australia.

"Wynton will make the training arrangements and we're looking at a 10 weeks build up for the team.

"Warm-up matches have not yet been arranged but it's our intention to play some games in New Zealand and others outside, including Australia to get accustomed to the travelling."

The acceptance of the club into the NSL followed three years of organisation and negotiation with the support of Soccer Australia and the board of New Zealand soccer.

Turner said a five year

sponsorship agreement had been secured with a major corporation as part of the drive to bring benefits to soccer in New Zealand.

Rufer, a former Kiwi international, was recently elected as the Oceania Player of the Century and was three times winner of the Oceania Player of the Year.

He had a successful career in Europe with Werder Bremen in the German Bundesliga and had numerous offers to stay in a coaching capacity.

"He has proved himself in one of the toughest professional environments in the world and knows how and what it takes to win," Turner said.

"We've also noted the success of Australian clubs who have taken the same path of using their great professional players to return as player-coaches and the

success they have achieved, namely Frank Farina, David Mitchell and Graham Arnold."

The Kings are the first club to sign a five year licence with Soccer Australia and approval has been sought from the world body FIFA for the inclusion of the Kings into the league.

Wynton Rufer is giving little away as he heads back into serious soccer as player-coach of the Football Kings.

But his sights are already set on signing a player he believes could be the best in the league.

Rufer will next month play for the FIFA World XI against the Socceroos at Stadium Australia and undergo an operation on his troublesome shoulder.

"I have a few tricks up my sleeve," said 36-year-old said.

"I have a one-year contract and I'm excited at being part of it.

"I'm sure most of the players who have played for New Zealand will be keen to play for us."

"I hope to start signing players as soon as we can."

Rufer has set a deadline of the first week in September for the first formal training session ahead of the league's kick-off in the second week of October.

He will have the operation on his return from Australia on a shoulder he dislocated five or six times and needed "the bits screwed back into place".

Unlike rugby league, there is no salary cap but Football Kings chairman Chris Turner said player payments would be included in the \$2.5 million budget for the first season.

He said the club would sign 20 players, including the five imports they are allowed in the first year.

Trademark names; Auckland Kings attract controversy

THE Auckland Kings believe they will be able to keep their moniker despite protests from the Sydney Kings basketball team.

Just a day after launching their entry into the NSL, the Football Kings learned the Sydney Kings were preparing to take legal action to protect their trademark name.

Sydney Kings chief executive Harry Wrublewski said he had written to Soccer Australia outlining the club's concerns.

"It really shouldn't be allowed, it shouldn't be done," Wrublewski said, adding Soccer Australia had been warned the Sydney Kings would object.

"We wanted to eliminate the problem before it occurred,

but obviously our views have been ignored. The registered trademark belongs to us, and we simply won't allow it to be used by anyone else. That is normal business practice."

The Sydney Kings franchise has existed for 11 years. Football Kings chairman Chris Turner said his directors were aware a year ago there might be a problem with the name but said his club would not change names.

"We don't think it will come to that," said Turner.

"I think common sense will prevail. In fact, I think having a second Kings would help both codes."

The situation concerning names is now at ridiculous proportions.

Last season an American

sporting team pressured South Melbourne into dropping their Lakers nickname and now a basketball team is putting similar pressure of the Auckland based Kings.

Following the same ludicrous principle teams all over the world would have to drop the name United from their title because Manchester United have registered it as a trademark.

Similarly City, Rovers and Rangers would all belong to one club only - with lawyers drooling at the prospect of massive legal fees as clubs fight over who owns the original title.

The fact that the soccer club is based in another country makes the basketball claim even funnier.

Bobby and Alf to be honoured

THE construction of a joint statue to honour both Sir Alf Ramsey and Bobby Moore at the new National Stadium is being considered by the English Football Association (FA).

The FA intends to honour the manager and captain of England's World Cup-winning side of 1966 and believes the scene of their greatest triumph could be the ideal venue.

Talks will now take place with those planning the redevelopment of Wembley before a final decision is made.

While Sir Alf's death last week has focused minds on a tribute to him, with members of the 1966 side calling for a permanent and fitting memorial, the FA decided that the achieve-

ments of Moore should also be recognised.

David Davies, the FA's interim executive director, said: "We want to put criticisms that the game hasn't done enough in the past behind us."

"With the new National Stadium we have a unique opportunity to do so."

Stephanie Moore, widow of the former England captain, welcomed the proposal and said: "They share the 1996 World Cup victory in common and it is a wonderful idea."

"It would be lovely if they were both to be remembered in this way, especially at the new Wembley. Bobby's family are very grateful if the FA want to redress the balance."

FIFA inspect World Cup venues

FIFA, soccer's world governing body, today began its first official check on South Korea's preparations for the 2002 World Cup.

A six-member delegation, led by vice FIFA president Antonio Matarrese, arrived last week for a five-day inspection tour and was joined today by two other delegates.

On Thursday, all eight delegates flew to Japan, co-host of the 2002 event.

The six-member group visited two stadiums under construction in Seoul and on the southernmost island of Cheju.

The second two-member group, led by another FIFA vice president, David Will,

will check on logistical issues such as ticketing and hotel accommodations.

"I am really satisfied," Matarrese said after inspecting a 63,000-seat stadium under construction in western Seoul.

"I am sure that this stadium will be one of the biggest and important stadiums in the world."

The Sangam stadium in Seoul is scheduled to be completed by 2001. It will serve as the venue of the opening ceremony and match of the 2002 World Cup.

Japan will stage the closing ceremony and final match.

South Korea has the right to stage 32 World Cup matches

in 2002.

It plans to hold them in Seoul, its capital, and nine other cities.

That plan must get FIFA's approval by May 15.

South Korea also hopes to stage two or three of its share of the matches in rival North Korea, but the North has yet to officially respond to the offer.

Chung Mong-joon, president of the South Korea Football Association and a FIFA vice president, said he plans to visit North Korea with FIFA chief Sepp Blatter to discuss sharing Seoul's World Cup games with North Korean officials.

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MANCHESTER UNITED DOWN UNDER 1999

Ferguson signs new deal as United look to expand in Australia

MANCHESTER United soccer manager Alex Ferguson has signed a new three-year deal that will keep him at the English Premiership club until July 2002.

Ferguson's new contract, announced by the club, follows a hugely successful season which has United on course for an unprecedented treble.

Since replacing Ron Atkinson as United manager in 1986, Ferguson has won the Premiership four times, the FA Cup three times and the European Cup Winners' Cup.

The English soccer giant aims to expand its formidable marketing arm across Australia when it tours here in July. The Premier League side also aims to tap into the local talent and establish links with Australian sides while in Australia to play two games against the Socceroos.

Berti Mariani, general manager of Rivkin Entertainment which is con-



Berti Mariani: involved with United tour

ducting the tour, said part of the attraction of coming to Australia was to establish merchandising links here.

United will play the Socceroos at the MCG on

July 15 and then at Stadium Australia the following Sunday as part of an Asian pre-season tour.

The European and FA Cup finalist is the richest

club in the world and its merchandising arm far outstrips its considerable revenue from gate-takings.

The club also has its own television station and even its own beer.

"They want to expand their franchising and further expose their brand name in Asia and Australia ... they are looking at setting up retail outlets here," Mariani said.

"They are also looking at setting up a feeder situation through clubs here that would be beneficial to them and beneficial to Australia."

Tickets for the games went on sale last Saturday and 30,000 have already been snapped up.

Mariani left for Manchester last week to fine-tune arrangements for the tour.

Officials from Ericsson Cup side Melbourne Knights have already met with United chiefs in a bid to establish links between the two clubs.

No favours from United old boys

By Alan Baldwin

Manchester United's former "Captain Marvel" Bryan Robson was the key to his old club's league title hopes last weekend when the European Cup finalists visited Middlesbrough on Sunday.

Middlesbrough was the last team to beat United in any league or cup match, winning 3-2 at Old Trafford on December 19. Since then United has played 28 matches without loss.

United is under pressure from from champion Arsenal, who has put in a late surge with 15 goals in its last four games -- including a 6-1 away drubbing of Middlesbrough late last month.

Robson steered United to F.A. Cup glory three times and saw United win the league in 1993 and 1994 when he was on the fringes of the side.

"The fact that I had a long career at United doesn't come into it," said



Robson before the all-important match.

"We want the points and a win for our fans. I know (United manager) Alex Ferguson would not do us any favours and he won't expect any either."

Ferguson experienced that sentiment first hand earlier in the week when United drew 2-2 with Liverpool in midweek, the late Liverpool equaliser coming off the boot

of former United midfielder Paul Ince and some refereeing decisions that enraged the manager.

With a trip still to come on Wednesday to relegation-threatened Blackburn, now managed by his former United deputy Brian Kidd, Ferguson knows that if the title returns to Manchester it will not be thanks to former Old Trafford favourites.

Emery & Ivory; Adelaide's "mess"

By Paul Millar and Sam Lienert

ADELAIDE Sharks will withdraw from the National Soccer League, paving the way for a new club, Adelaide United, to join the competition following an agreement by creditors last Friday.

A joint bid of \$450,000 from business consortium Adelaide United and a group called the Friends of West Adelaide was accepted by creditors at today's meeting.

Financial administrator Bruce Mulvaney said the Greek heritage of the club would continue through West Adelaide junior and state league teams, which would feed players into Adelaide United. Mulvaney said although Adelaide United

would be a new club, the former Sharks board members were expected to maintain links with it and Soccer Australia would probably allow the new club to continue in the NSL under the existing licence.

He said the new moves were still to be ratified by the current owners but this was expected to be a formality.

"It has been a win-win situation for the players and the Greek community and for South Australia," Mulvaney said.

"There's been a fantastic outcome from a very difficult history over the past few months."

Adelaide United chairman Peter Emery said in a statement the new club would seek the broadest possible supporter base.

Emery said it had the financial backing to fund a substantial marketing program and to buy players and coaching staff.

He said Adelaide United did not want to control the Sharks, but he expected players from the state league and junior teams would be available to Adelaide United, subject to the decisions of coaching staff.

Meanwhile the South Australian Soccer Federation (SASF) has not abandoned its plans to enter its own team in the NSL.

SASF chairman Les Ivory said he saw no future in the bids from former members of the Adelaide City board and a joint consortium of local businessmen.

"The fact is that it is an unholy mess and we can't afford to sit back and let others take control and I certainly don't want to see the rebirth of West Adelaide," Ivory said earlier in the week.

He said the Sharks were around \$750,000 in debt, owed his federation around \$70,000, and wondered why sudden rescue packages appeared when the club was disappearing in a sea of debt.

"I can't see these blokes coming up with the \$500,000 needed to put the team in the league and then finding the \$6 to \$10 million to run it," Ivory said.

"My board has given me licence to explore the options and that includes the formation of a new soccer club," he said.

Ivory also warned that rival club Adelaide City only had a limited future in the national league, a point made abundantly clear when it drew only 4,500 to the opening leg of its elimination final against Perth Glory on

the weekend.

He said City had been in the league for 22 years while Perth was in its second season and was drawing record crowds, and something had to be drawn from that.

The SASF is the landlord of Hindmarsh Stadium where City and the Sharks play and Ivory said he would no longer tolerate two sides playing there if they could not draw spectators.

"We've a \$30 million stadium here which is arguably the best soccer complex in the country and we can't afford to have crowds of 5,000 here for NSL games," he said.

Ivory will meet with officials from state and premier league clubs in South Australia to see determine their support for going it alone.

"With a proper prospectus and business plan it appears feasible," he said.

Adelaide businessman Peter Emery plans to enter Adelaide United into the NSL while dropping the Sharks to a local competition.

The Sharks were in the hands of an administrator prior to Emery's successful takeover.

Two bids had been lodged with the club's administrator to buy the club at a previous creditors' meeting - one by former club president Con Makris, the other a joint bid between former board members and a consortium headed by Emery.

Emery has said his consortium wanted to create a new club, Adelaide United, which would be attractive to fans of any ethnic origin and not limited by the Greek heritage of the Sharks.

He said he entered the bidding for the Sharks because he respected the club's tradition and wanted it to survive, but not in the NSL.

"We have formed a completely separate club called Adelaide United Soccer Club, obviously our club is designed to have a very broad appeal amongst supporters," Emery said.

"We would like to attract many more people than the Sharks but, at

the same time, we would like to see the Sharks survive.

"What we think would be appropriate, subject to other people agreeing, is to keep (the Sharks) in the state league, premier league and junior league and have Adelaide United as the NSL licence."

Emery said he was confident a soccer club could be financially successful in Adelaide despite the current lack of support for the Sharks and Adelaide City, which both averaged home crowds of fewer than 5,000 people this season.

He said soccer was the most popular form of football amongst Adelaide children, English soccer had a strong following here and the Northern Spirit and Perth Glory had demonstrated it was possible to attract fans with the right broad spectrum approach.

"The first thing is not to be tied down to one particular ethnic group and to have a wide marketing campaign designed to attract all South Australians," Emery said.

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BOSNICH TO SUE GREGORY

ASTON Villa manager John Gregory is fed up with football's growing band of "prima donnas".

Gregory has been plagued with problems all season with his top players.

Now with goalkeeper Mark Bosnich's protracted move under the Bosman ruling still unresolved, Gregory has had enough.

Without naming names, Gregory said: "Quite frankly I am sick to death with the prima donnas in football."

"It is about time football clubs looked after the people who are totally committed to the club."

"I have a great bunch of players at Villa and all I say is that those players who want to come and join us will be made very welcome."

"If they don't, then they can go elsewhere."

Bosnich's future has been in the balance for months now and Gregory, who axed the Australian for the tie with his likely destination Manchester United, is concerned the saga has



done little to help Villa in their quest for honours.

Gregory stated that if Bosnich has a dramatic late change of mind and decides to remain with Villa "it will now be on our terms". He added: "I've tried for the last 16 months to persuade Mark to sign for Villa as have the board."

"Even the players have attempted to persuade him to stay."

"Frankly, I do not think that he knows in his own mind what he is going to do next season."

"If he does he has certainly not told us."

"I gather he was a little upset with some of my comments. I think I

touched a raw nerve."

Asked if he was concerned about the threat of possible legal action from Bosnich, Gregory replied: "I couldn't care less."

"I think we have looked after Bosnich this season. He played the first eight games of the season and was then injured for four or five months."

"The club stood by him and did not cast him aside. We didn't put him in a corner and make him rot."

But the Soccerroo goalkeeper is considering suing Villa manager Gregory for publicly questioning his commitment to the club.

The headline-grabbing

Bosnich has consulted his lawyers and was weighing up the option of taking out a defamation writ against Gregory.

Gregory left the star goalkeeper out of last Saturday's clash with Premiership leaders Manchester United, the club Bosnich was eager to join when his contract with Villa expired at the end of the season.

He also banned Bosnich from travelling on the team bus and stated: "I'm only going to pick players who are totally committed to Aston Villa."

"That's it as far as I'm concerned. He's played his last game for Villa."

London's Mirror newspaper quoted Bosnich saying: "In view of the weekend events and what was said by Mr Gregory, I'm taking legal advice."

"I am with my lawyers at the moment and there is nothing else I want to say."

Gregory had intimated Bosnich's loyalties would be divided had he played against United, saying:

"Perhaps we'll have to get (United manager) Alex Ferguson's permission to play him."

Bosnich is expected to replace United's departing Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel for about Stg40,000 (\$A100,000) per week.

Bosnich was understood to have already turned down an offer by Liverpool and could easily command a higher fee, but was keen to experience Premiership and European tournament success with United.

"It was an insult," Bosnich said of being dropped against Manchester United.

"I wanted to play against United. Manager Jack Gregory says he won't pick me again this season because of the uncertainty over my future."

"That's his decision. My decision is that there is no way I will stay at Villa now, whatever happens."

Until now Bosnich, 27, has always left open the possibility of remaining with Villa.

Harry set to commit five years to Leeds

SOCCERROO striker Harry Kewell has confirmed his playing future lies with English club Leeds United for the next five years.

The 20-year-old rookie's bold exploits for Leeds this season have won him many admirers, but he poured cold water on speculation that he may consider shifting to another club.

"I have three years on my current contract. My heart is at this club and I have no desire to leave," Kewell told English newspaper, *The Sun*.

"I look forward to sitting down with the manager to negotiate a new deal."

Leeds manager David O'Leary is poised to offer Kewell a five-year deal.

Kewell has played an integral part in an exceptional season by the young Leeds combination, who have exceeded all expectations and are currently lying fourth in the Premiership.

The Soccerroo was a finalist in the Football Association's Young Player of the Year award last week.

But Kewell said that while his immediate future rested with Leeds, his long-term ambitions included playing for a European club.

"I can see us (Leeds) winning the title inside three years and want to be a part of it," he said.

"But I want to play abroad, probably in Italy or Spain when I'm 26 or 27."



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Glory fever hits Perth

By Scott Coghlan

PERTH is in the grip of Glory fever after Saturday night's thrilling 2-1 NSL elimination final win over Adelaide City at the WACA Ground.

And the only cure for most Glory fans will be getting their hands on a ticket to next week's semi-final in Perth.

The Glory's amazing last gasp victory - with the winner coming from the head of Bobby Despotovski in the 91st minute - sent the sell-out crowd into raptures and is sure to spark a huge rush on tickets when they go on sale tomorrow and the semi-final should sell-out within hours.

Over 25,000 fans squeezed into the WACA Ground to see the Glory come from 1-0 down after 70 minutes to beat the Zebras, who only needed a 1-1 draw to advance on the away goals rule.

Perth coach Bernd Stange conceded his side was fortunate to still be alive and said it was unfortunate there would be a number of disappointed fans next weekend.

"We were in big, big trouble," he said.

"We tried everything and it was a little bit lucky, 27 years coaching and not many games of the quality like today.

"Next Saturday another party and we need a stadium for 60 or 70,000 people."

Unlike Adelaide coach Zoran Matic, Stange could afford to be philosophical after the match.

"Today's game hasn't a loser," he said.

"The winner here was soccer in Australia, it was a big, big party for soccer.

"If we have more such games soccer will come up."

While City striker Damian Mori attacked the standard of refereeing in the match, Matic said his side blew their chance with the nil-all draw in Adelaide a week earlier.

"We lost the game in Adelaide, not in Perth," he said.

"We always knew it would be difficult over here, we had chances in Adelaide and didn't convert them."

Mori had given his side the lead against the run of play in

the 70th minute, with his free kick taking a fortuitous deflection off a Glory defender and over the outstretched arms of keeper Tony Franken.

Three minutes later, Glory equalised through a header from Jamie Harnwell after a perfect Rob Trajkovski cross, but they still needed a second goal against one of the NSL's best defences. Just when Glory fans had conceded their season was over, a Jamie Harnwell header found Despotovski unmarked in the box and he gleefully nodded the ball wide of City keeper Jason Petkovic.

Glory, with four strikers on the field in the final 10 minutes, had pulled off a great escape and Adelaide was left pondering how it conceded two goals in 20 minutes after holding Perth out for the previous 160 minutes of the series. Although Glory dominated play and deserved to win, the Zebras could be considered unlucky and would certainly have booked a semi-final berth had Carl Vear's 81st minute shot on goal snuck in.

Marcus is a King



Australian Marcus Stiergiopoulos has signed a two-year contract with the Football Kings, the first of a number of overseas-based players the Auckland club hopes will join it before the start of the next season's national soccer league.

The 24-year-old, who has just finished a season with

Melbourne club Carlton, played for several seasons with English club Bradford City and Gippsland Falcons and will come to Auckland in early August on a full professional contract. Stiergiopoulos scored Carlton's only goal when they lost 1-2 to South Melbourne in last year's Ersson Cup final.

The signing was the second by the club following player-coach Wynton Rufer.

"We hope to make further announcements within a couple of weeks, but it may be a bit longer before we can confirm any of the five imports we are allowed from outside Australia and the Oceania region," Turner said.

Aussies hit the weekend headlines in Britain

Australian goalkeeper Andy Petterson marked what had been hailed as a "make or break" game for him by being sent off 11 minutes before the end of Premiership side Charlton's clash with Aston Villa.

Petterson was red-carded when he left his penalty area and crashed into Villa striker Julian Joachim.

He watched from the sidelines as team-mate Danny Mills hammered home an 89th minute goal which gave Charlton a 4-3 win and kept alive their slender hopes of avoiding relegation.

Petterson, 29, is Charlton's third-string keeper and is out of contract at the end of the season.

He made the starting line-up in the absence through injury of first-choice goalkeepers Sasa Ilic and Simon Royce.

Speaking before the match, Petterson had told reporters it was the biggest game of his career.

"If I do well I can maybe secure a new contract or earn a transfer," he told The Ex-

press.

But he shrugged off any suggestion of nerves.

"Being an Australian I'm a bit laid back and I don't let things worry me," he said.

"There won't be any sleepless nights - don't worry about that."

And another Aussie is the bad books last weekend was trouble-prone Australian soccer star Mark Viduka.

Viduka is at the centre of controversy again after spitting at an opponent.

Viduka headed for an early shower 43 minutes into Celtic's 2-1 win over Durnferline in the Scottish league when he was sent off for spitting at Marc Millar.

Celtic's head coach Jozef Venglos made Viduka issue a personal apology to Millar for the incident.

"Of course it was a mistake," Venglos told reporters of Viduka's actions.

"It was not acceptable and we spoke with him and Mark went to the player and apologised.

"They spoke together and

Mark said he was sorry after the game after he and I had decided together that a personal apology was the best thing to do.

"Our team, as a whole, believe in fair play."

The incident capped a turbulent week for Australian soccer players in the United Kingdom, with speculation that champion goalkeeper Mark Bosnich is considering suing his Aston Villa coach John Gregory for questioning his commitment to the club.

Viduka, who was recruited for \$7.6 million, was engulfed in controversy after walking out from Celtic just days after signing for the club in December.

He left claiming he was suffering from stress after a messy transfer row between Celtic and his former side Croatia Zagreb.

But in recent months Viduka had won the respect and admiration of Celtic's supporters with a string of goals and eye-catching performances for the famous club.

Olyroos in Japan for one off match

By Ted Simmons

Eight overseas-based Australians have been named in the Olyroo team to play the Japanese Olympic team in a one-off soccer game in Japan.

The overseas contingent will be led by Vince Grella (Empoli, Italy), Hayden Foxe (Sanfrece, Japan) and Chris Coyne (West Ham, England).

One notable absentee will be attacking midfielder Harry Kewell who will be playing for Leeds at home 24 hours earlier against current English Premier League leader Arsenal.

"But he will be here for the national team when they play against a FIFA team in June at Stadium Australia," coach Raul Blanco (pictured) said.

"His commitments with Leeds obviously take priority on this occasion but everyone else has been more than willing to play for the Olyroos."

The Australian squad of 18 left Sydney on Sunday with the Japan match scheduled for Wednesday May 12.

Blanco said the game would give him another opportunity to bring the overseas-based players into the squad.

"I'm very happy to have eight of them on board for this game because it gives me another chance to look at them in action," he said.

"I've been in regular contact with Eddie Thomson who currently coaches Sanfrece



and he says we will be playing against a very powerful Japanese unit.

"We're well aware of the tough competition coming out of Asia and this game gives the players an opportunity to continue staking a claim for the final Australian Olympic squad.

"It also gives me a chance to monitor the progression of likely opponents at the Sydney Olympics."

Blanco said many of the Japanese team play in the J-

League and a large number were in the team which finished second to Spain in the World Under 20 championships last month in Nigeria.

The Olyroos recently played South Korea but suffered 1-0 and 2-0 losses.

Blanco said negotiations were in progress for further matches for the Australians with the possibility of overseas teams touring at the end of this month or the middle of June.

SOCCER OLYROO SQUAD

AUSTRALIAN Olympic team to play Japan May 12:
Peter Zois (Holland), Joe Didulica (Melb Knights), Hayden Foxe (Japan), Tansel Baser (Turkey), Simon Colosimo (Carlton), Stephen Laybutt (Brisbane), Chris Coyne (West Ham England), Dragi Nastevski (Melb Knights), Raphael Bove (Holland), Vince Grella (Italy), Lucas Neill (Millwall England), Marco Bresciano (Carlton), Bill Damianos (Greece), Brett Emerton (Syd Olympic), Kasey Werhman (Brisbane), Archie Thompson (Carlton), Nick Carle (Syd Olympic), Zeljko Sosa (Melb Knights).



Bruce Campbell

IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

SOMETHINGS, it seems never change. And while Australia is undeniably one of the world leaders in junior soccer production there is still a massive room for improvement.

It would seem that the grassroots level of soccer is still totally under-resourced.

Like every other soccer fan I am well aware of the almost production-line stream of fine young Australian players produced in recent years.

But that doesn't mean that our system is perfect, it doesn't even mean it is very good.

All it means is that there has been a lot of money poured in at the top level of junior soccer production.

Our national system, which then filters down to states and ITCs and Academies, is superb.

The fact that the Scottish Sports Council has just appointed an Australian to head its own embryonic Institute of Sport means that the Australian sporting model works.

But it would seem that conditions for the vast majority of kids hasn't changed in thirty years.

As a fifteen-year-old I can remember being forced to go for long runs around ovals and then taking part in a full game.

That was training for me

in what my kids call the 'dark ages, when dinosaurs roamed the earth'.....

Our coach was, more often than not, someone whose own soccer knowledge was abysmally low.

We seem to reserve the best coaches for the top teams but in reality you don't need to be a good coach to run an NSL side, you need to be a good manager.

All of the coaching should already be done.

I have always held a belief that our major investment should be with the kids - at the youngest possible age.

Sure, we have roo-ball and all the other programmes but how many coaches at under five or six level are qualified?

How many clubs have well-meaning but certificate-less parents running their teams?

Would you send your kids to a school where the lessons were taken by someone who didn't have a thorough educational training?

Yet, off they go to the local soccer club with very few parents bothering to ask for the credentials of the coaches involved.

You can't knock the coaches, they are just trying to do their best and often when no-one else will take on the job.

But that isn't the point.

Each junior club should be responsible for transforming that raw enthusiasm into

knowledgeable energy.

More often than not they just don't have the funds to do that and there is where our powers-that-be must recognise where funding is better spent - at the base of the pyramid where it is really needed rather than at the top where it often just makes fat cats even fatter.

The average amount of time actually spent on the ball during a game is something less than three minutes for the majority of players.

In some instances total ball time in a ninety, or either, minute match wouldn't exceed sixty seconds.

You have to boggle then when you see seven and eight year olds playing a full pitch game for their training sessions.

The only conclusion which could be drawn is that the coach just doesn't know that the only way to improve skills

is by having total ball time - one ball, one kid.

I remember school yard games we played as a kid in Scotland which involved playing against the wall with a tennis ball.

I can also remember playing another one against the cross bar from twenty yards out - again with a tennis ball.

Later on I have great memories of my brother showing me how to feint and swerve in our back garden.

That was the sum total of coaching in my life.

I had a comparatively high profile junior career so I consider that I probably got more than most kids - and, other than help from my elder brother, I got nothing.

I don't include those who called themselves coach because they had the clip board and picked the team.

But things just haven't changed - at least not for the

majority of youngsters.

A couple of years ago I asked a very prominent NSL coach why he didn't go to the finals of the Bill Turner Cup or the Commonwealth Bank Cup.

He told me that he didn't bother because if a kid was good enough then they were already in the 'system', they would have been identified by regional development coaches, then ITC coaches and then the Australian Institute of Sport.

Fair point, but surely the 'system' isn't the be-all and end-all?

And what happens to the unlucky kid whose father or mother just happens to put them with a local club where the coach is a duffer?

Nothing, that is what.

The kid will probably be part of the never-ending chain who drop out of soccer somewhere after 12 years of age.

Most junior administrators are aware of the massive secondary school drop-out rate.

A great many I have spoken to blame peer pressure and the attraction of other codes on that rate.

But to me it is more likely to do with the fact that the kids just don't have the necessary skill level.

If they don't have a solid grounding by 12 or 13 then it is unlikely that they will ever get it.

And, thankfully in many ways, the days of playing on street corners and with tennis balls, for the great majority of Aussie kids, is in the past.

Junior soccer in Australia has become a middle class sport and our kids are suffering from a genuine lack of skills training.

The answer: junior associations should make it compulsory in the first instance for every coach to attend an educational forum.

Then that simple requirement could be gradually increased until those coaches all possess a Level 1.

It isn't achievable overnight but it is achievable.

I would like to see the roo-ballers the first target for an improvement in coaching standards, not the last.

Just imagine what our junior production would be like in ten years if an up-graded club coaching system was instituted - and imagine the effect on the secondary school are drop-out level.

Just because things have-

SOCCER ROLLER COASTER

CROWDS this season have been magnificent. Record numbers saw the normal league games and now we are on target for record after record being smashed in the Top Six series.

There is little doubt that the success of Northern Spirit and Perth Glory has had a lot to do with that - not just at their own clubs but with the competitive edge it has resulted in at other clubs.

Spirit, in particular, have sent a clear message to the other New South Wales clubs. Those who have risen to the challenge will reap the rewards - and that is as it should be.

The inclusion of the Auckland Kings could be another major boost for the game. Soccer, it seems, is on the crest of a wave.

The forthcoming visits of Manchester United and the World XI will also be magnificent for the game.

1999

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THE 1999 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE TOP SIX

"I hoped it would give me my hunger back, and it has": Tsekinis

by Alan Clark

JIM Tsekinis has this month turned 24. Since the age of nine until the start of this season, he was a player with Adelaide Sharks.

In the senior side he was a club favourite and was the focus of the side.

At the start of this season, Tsekinis transferred to South Melbourne.

What were his feelings at that time, leaving the known for the unknown?

"I found it fantastic," he said with a smile.

"I think I made the move at the right time.

"My old club isn't doing too well back home - they're in a bit of trouble.

"But I made the move - I was nervous, but I think it was just time for me to go and play in a Finals Series.

"I'd been there so long and never played in the Finals. I couldn't be happier.

"(South) has treated me fantastically - just like one of the boys, I've fitted in really well with all the players, and what do you know? - I'm playing in my first Finals too!"

Being a high-profile player at one club, transferring to another and taking a support role might be hard to bear, but for South Melbourne's Jim Tsekinis, it's all part of the price of making a move to a regular championship-contender.

In an exclusive interview with Inside Soccer's Alan Clark, Tsekinis speaks of his time at Adelaide Sharks, his learning experience in his first year at South Melbourne, and his hopes for the future.

I was speaking with Tsekinis at the Melbourne launch of the Finals Series where Ericsson Cup General Manager Stefan Kamasz congratulated South on being such a regular Finals contender.

Tsekinis was one of a number of South players who had made themselves available for the media. Tsekinis is clearly an important part of South coach Ange Postecoglou's squad, but being a new player, and one of a number battling for places in a successful side, he'd gained mostly substitute appearances, and usually filled utility rather than specialised roles.

I asked him how he felt being such a focus player at the Sharks, but being a bench player at South.

"I knew that was going to be the case coming here," he said. "I knew nobody could just walk into the team with the talent they've got - the amount of Socceroos and ex-Socceroos and so on.

"I guess I found that a challenge for me because I was probably starting to get too complacent and too comfortable in Adelaide - knowing I was going to be a regular.

"There was a lot of pressure - everyone was relying on me. I thought, this was a

challenge for me, I can go there, earn my stripes, I can try and blend in with a team, and start all over again.

"I hoped it would give me my hunger back, and it has."

A week earlier, Postecoglou had mentioned that last year he felt he could have taken a six week's holiday in Bali during South's victorious Finals campaign without any adverse effect on South's fortunes, such was his assessment of the motivation and desire of his players.

This year he said he sensed that his presence was required, that the desire was not as keen across the whole squad, but was there in players who for various reasons did not participate in last year's Grand Final victory.

Tsekinis - new to the club, is obviously one of them. I asked Tsekinis about Postecoglou's comment, and sought his opinion on the mood of the squad.

"I can't tell what's (in the minds of all the other players) - to me they look hungry enough, but I wasn't here last year to know the difference between how they were last year and how hungry they are this year.

"I knew nobody could just walk into the team with the talent South Melbourne have got"

"But there are players like me and George Goutzioulis and Robert Liparoti who missed out last year, so hopefully we have the right blend of experience and hunger.

"Definitely that comment is correct with players like me. One of the main reasons for my move was to play Finals. So I'm as eager as I can be - I'm really excited and I can't wait to play."

Tsekinis was to come to a squad that was brimming with talent, although the departures of Bill Damianos and Tansel Baser overseas, and long-term absences through injury affecting Goran Lozanovski, Con Blatsis, and David Clarkson meant that there were windows of opportunity.

Those windows have mostly involved Tsekinis' introduction as a substitute late in the



second half, at least so far. This didn't seem to rankle Tsekinis.

"It's a case of even if you get four minutes, or fifteen, or twenty - you can't wait to get on and bust your guts and do as well as you can."

Tsekinis has played in a variety of roles at South, variously in central midfield as well as on the right side, and also in a more advanced position. So which is his preferred position on the park? His eyes gleamed.

"I'd love to come on right behind the two strikers and sneak about and try to get a few goals," he said.

"That'd be fantastic!"

It's a good ambition, but that position is currently filled by captain and favourite son Paul Trimboli.

When I mentioned this he smiled and said, "Yeah, for now I guess!"

Then he added with a laugh,

on fitness. I was always behind the eight-ball."

South plays a particular short-passing and possession-football style. How long did it take for Tsekinis to learn the ropes?

"I've blended in with the team, I know what it's all about - I know the system. It took me a long while, a very

long while, longer than it should have, just to get used to the system and the players, the way they were playing.

"The first six months, I was making runs in all the wrong places. I couldn't do a thing right.

"Eventually I started understanding the way they play the game. It's very different to the way it was at Sharks. There, it was more direct, just hit me straight away up front.

"(Football here) is a lot more patient. You break teams down over a period of time. I just couldn't get used to it.

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Jacob's Ladder to United Success

by Stuart Jones

Jacob Burns has really stepped up this season and made his mark on the NSL. Many forget that he is still young with his thoughtful play and hard work.

Last season comments were made on the raw aspect of his game but under a further season with David Mitchell and co. he has refined his game into one that brings pleasure to the spectators.

Burns started his soccer playing with his local club Greenacre before moving onto the Bankstown representative sides.

He played for NSW in both soccer and tennis but chose to give up the latter for a soccer career.

He chose the team game "because if I made an error I had someone else I could blame".

Even then he later had to choose between two types of soccer, indoor or outdoor as he made the indoor national squad but it was the outdoor game that won his heart.

Burns' next side was UTS Olympic's before playing two seasons with St George. Finally, at the

age of 16, he made it to Sydney United where he was quickly promoted through the ranks.

He played his first senior game at home against Collingwood, United winning 7-0 - not a bad start.

Jacob Burns is a very versatile player but he prefers his current mid-field role.

"I always thought I would end up here in midfield but there was a season along the way where I played every position bar goal keeper," he says.

"Wherever I play I come forward as often as I can. I believe my vision and endurance can be best utilised in the centre of the park."

The 1997/98 season was Jacob's first full year in the top squad at United.

"It was a real learning curve," adds. "The season before I had had five starts and four substitute appearances under Branko Culina, and I was just 17.

"Last season was about learning to adapt to the new grade. I thought we had played well enough to win the whole thing

but we fell away in the finals against Marconi.

"I do not think we were as focused as we are this time around. All credit to the Stallions who played really well, but I think we were good enough and that has just helped build our resolve even more this time around.

"Overall things went pretty well last season and I was certainly happy with my game as others must have been for I became part of the Olyroo squad."

That final game last season saw Jacob fracture his collar bone, his first major injury along the way.

"It meant I could do nothing for three weeks and then I spent the next two weeks building it up," he says.

"I spent my time at the Institute of Sport recovering because you can not get better facilities than those. It has had no lasting effect, fortunately, and I certainly do not back off because of it.

"At Sydney United this season we are much more of a team than even last year - there are less egos and more down to earth players.

"I have my role to play in that and do not want to let the others down along the way.

"Having Walter Ardone next to me has really helped as well, as we have blended really well.

"He has great skills and always attacks the play, taking the ball to the opposition, which certainly unnerves them.

"I did not know much about him when he came here, in fact when I had played against him I did not think much of him, but having worked closely with him I have come to realise just what a great player Walter is.

"We compliment each other and that does not happen all that much, and it makes both of us better players, I think."

As for David Mitchell, Burns has no doubt, joining the queue of admirers of the man tipped to be the next Socceroo coach.

"Mitch is one of the best coaches and motivators that I have ever had," says Burns.

"He picked guys at the beginning of the season that he knew could work together and that is how it has panned out.

"He gives you little

pointers in attack and defence along the way but overall he lets us play our own games. Training is never the same with all sorts of variations.

"It means that you enjoy coming along, unlike when I was younger and hated training because it was so much of the same thing.

"He is a coach that has a great relationship with the players, something that is rare in soccer.

"His best aspect is motivation, he really keeps you focused on the task at hand."

There is talk of a dissolution of players at Sydney United, especially if David Mitchell leaves.

Burns only signed a one year deal at the beginning of the season so how hard would it be to leave United?

"Even though I am depended on at United there will come a time eventually when I will have to say goodbye," he admits.

"That is not going to be easy because I have played all my senior football here. I am non-Croatian and yet this club have always done good by me.

"We are all in limbo at

present but we will have to wait until the end of the season to see what the next step is.

"Being a professional footballer is harder than most people think. Yes we have the benefits of playing in front of large audiences and have the opportunity to rise to the occasion each week but along the way we have to sacrifice a lot.

"From 17 to 20 you have to be very disciplined in your outlook and not all people are up to that, that is why some people with all the skills in the world fall away.

"You need to be a certain type of person to achieve your goals in soccer.

"At Sydney United we train four or five times a week, compared to the likes of Carlton who had up to 12 training sessions.

"I still approach my play as full time as it is my only source of income so if I am not at training I am at the Gym, or doing promotional work around the local schools for the club.

"Every day I have to do something involved with the game.

"There are also the risks. One day you may get caught in an accidental tackle that injures you and keeps you out of the game for life.

"It can cut an already short career span as a soccer player.

"When I graduated from High School I was all set for University but at the time I just signed my first full time playing contract. My parents were very understanding about my choice to chase my dream."

Finally, Sydney United have brushed past all the doubters and made the finals, but what next?

"We can go all the way," says Jacob Burns

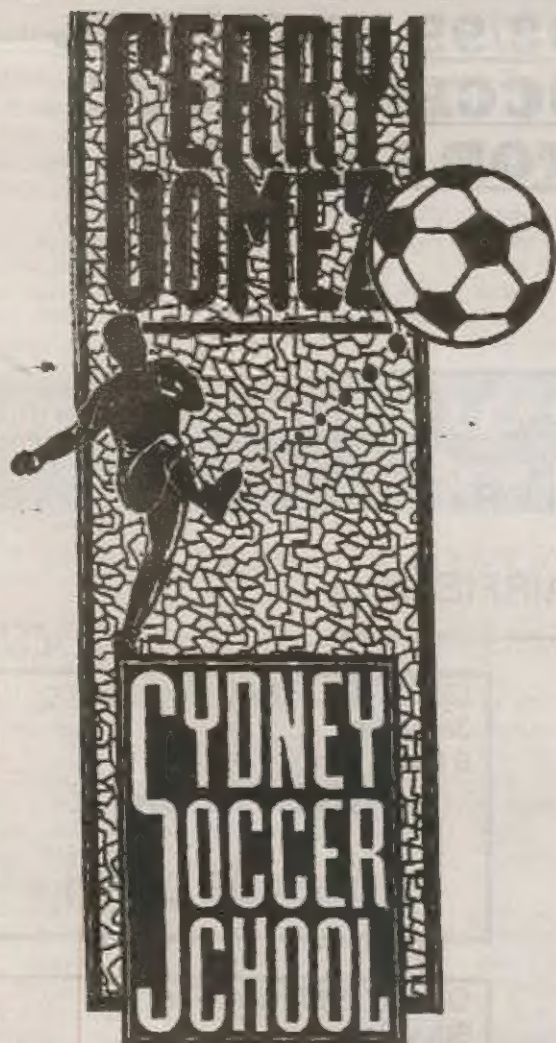
"We have the team and the self belief to do it. Everyone wrote us off yet we finished top.

"Time and again we have proved we can rise to the big occasion when difficult tasks have been set before us.

"We are fighters and can come back from any adversity.

"I think Sydney United fans will be celebrating along with us at season's end. After all if Sydney United is one thing it is that we are a great team."

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THE 1999 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE TOP SIX

Big build-up could be advantage:



By Sam Lienert

THE reaction to the pressure of a capacity crowd and a different stadium were the telling factor in the NSL elimination match between Perth Glory and Adelaide City last Saturday, Glory goalkeeper Tony Franken said today before the match.

The match was a 24,500 sell-out with the last tickets being snapped up last Friday – ahead on match day.

Franken said the build-up in Perth for the match was so big that 40,000 tickets would have been sold if they had been available.

Franken, the hero for

Perth with several brilliant saves in the 0-0 draw in Adelaide in the first leg, said the huge home support was a bonus for Perth.

"In previous seasons we have struggled to play in front of our own fans, this year with the new coach (Bernd Stange) we were able to

turn that around and it has been promising.

"I'm sure it has given us some advantage, however playing at the WACA was a bit foreign for all of us, we have played all our home games at Perth Oval. We only had two training sessions at the WACA before the match."



"It's time I got something"

By Ted Simmons

TOUGH Marconi striker Francis Awaritefe hopes it will be third time lucky in his long campaign to win an Australian soccer premiership medal.

Awaritefe has played in

two NSL Grand Finals which were lost on penalties, missed a third through illness and has contested every finals series since he came from England.

He is the hard working spearhead for Marconi.

"I've been in Australia

for 11 seasons now and it's about time something came my way," he said. The scoreless draw against the Spirit in the first leg had us keyed up on our own ground. You don't get many ordinary scoring opportunities in finals football."

1998/99 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE TOP 6 SERIES

GRAND FINAL
29/30 May

VENUE: TBC, either Olympic Park, Melbourne or Parramatta Stadium, Sydney

PRELIMINARY FINAL
winner of Semi Final v
loser of Major 1/4 Final
22/23 May

SEMI FINAL
15 May

PERTH GLORY

v

MARCONI FAIRFIELD

QUARTER FINAL Second Leg
1st v 2nd
16 May
SYDNEY UNITED
v
SOUTH MELBOURNE

QUARTER FINAL First Leg
2nd v 1st
9 May
SOUTH MELBOURNE 2
SYDNEY UNITED 1

QUARTER FINAL Second Leg
4th v 5th
9 May
MARCONI FAIRFIELD 2
NORTHERN SPIRIT 1

QUARTER FINAL First Leg
5th v 4th
30 April
NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0

QUARTER FINAL Second Leg
3rd v 6th
9 May
PERTH GLORY 2
ADELAIDE CITY 1

QUARTER FINAL First Leg
6th v 3rd
2 May
ADELAIDE CITY 0
PERTH GLORY 0

Sydney Soccer

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SEA CHANGE FOR STATE LEAGUE

by BRUCE CAMPBELL

SOCCER in Sydney may never be the same again. Dramatic changes are in the offing and, as can be expected, there are differing opinions on just how the game should go.

Earlier plans emanating from the Parklea headquarters of the New South Wales Soccer Federation involved the Super League shifting to a new time frame at the end of this current season.

The original plan was for the Super League to become a summer competition, run in tandem with the NSL and, in fact, a *de facto*, if not *de jure*, NSL second division.

That plan took a set back when a recent meeting of clubs voted to put the shift on hold.

Now, it looks increasingly likely that a new competition could be up and running by the start of summer 2000.

And NSW Soccer Federation President Peter Gray has hinted that it could be in a totally different format.

"It could well be a totally separate competition from the Super League," he told *Inside Soccer*. "That looks more likely."

"It could also be based on a more regional concept with teams entered from Newcastle and Canberra as well as other areas of the state."

Gray also insisted that there will be a joint push from Victoria with members from both federations due for talks.

"There are a number of things we need to discuss for the future of the game," he said.

"More than ever our two federations are pushing in the same direction."

"We might start a championship between the two top teams from Victoria and New South Wales."

"There could also be talk about a states championship."

"I think you will find that a talk between Victoria and ourselves will happen fairly soon."

The idea of an intra-state competition was shelved at the instigation of former ASF Commissioner George Negus, who instead gave birth to the Travellers series.

But Gray has always been an advocate of a genuine states' competition and it could well be that his idea will receive enough support to eventuate.

It also seems that a meeting between leading members of both federations is on the cards.

With vital issues to be discussed it could well be that that meeting will be the fulcrum for a change which many in the game feel is long overdue.

Whichever way the heads nod will be the deciding direction for the future of soccer in Sydney – and maybe further afield also.

State League soccer could well be on the verge of a total sea change with ultimately more than just the Super League clubs affected.



Peter Gray: a 'heads of state' meeting between New South Wales and Victoria is likely to create a sea change

INSIDE SOCCER

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BLACKTOWN CITY SOCCER CLUB

Keegan amongst many greats at Blacktown

BLACKTOWN City are the club which everybody loves to beat.

Situated in the outer west of what has over the years become the heartland of Sydney soccer the Demons are consistently a major force in the NSW Super League.

In past years the Demons have also had spells in the NSL, spells which have whetted some of their supporters' appetites for more while at the same time turned others off the experience for life.

Their Gabbie Stadium complex is one of the best of its kind in Australia and backed by a thriving social club situated next door to the pitch they are in fine shape.

The club owes its origins to a group of "enthusiastic amateurs" who formed the Toongabbie Football Club in 1953.

In 1959 the club's land was bought for \$2,500 and some ambitious plans were formulated.

Things went awry and the impetus to forge ahead as a senior club soon dissipated.

Between then and 1970 the club operated as a junior only club and in that year was admitted to the NSWFS's Division 6 competition.

Over the next decade the club went on a fairly meteoric rise through the grades and in 1978 was promoted to the State League first division.

Throughout this period one of the guiding forces behind the team's successes on and off the park was Peter Thorne, currently General Manager of the NSWFS.

Thorne, known as a tough and uncompromising administrator, got the club on a sound financial footing.

The '80s were a period in which Blacktown traded punches with the heavyweights of Australian soccer in the National League but, like many clubs, they fell foul of reconstruction changes following the catastrophic dual conference set-up.

In 1989 they got another taste of the top flight but lasted only two seasons.

That was to be their last

term in the big league and when the club went down there were mixed feelings amongst many of the loyal supporters.

It was an experience which caused great financial discomfort and with that in mind recent talk of a Blacktown re-emergence in the NSL have been treated sceptically.

"It is always a talking point at the club," said soccer club manager Ken Schembri recently.

"But it is a major financial burden to go it alone and there are a lot of people at the club who do not want us to take that direction.

"We haven't seriously considered NSL membership for some time but you never know."

Recently Blacktown have been linked with the bid by Parramatta Leagues club but Schembri, obviously aware of the emotions of the subject, has been careful to keep his distance from that speculation.

Blacktown is also involved in a youth development



Footballing icon Kevin Keegan during his guest spell with Blacktown

scheme with English Premier league club West Ham United and Schembri is enthusiastic about the benefits that has brought.

"It isn't just with players," he said.

"We have also sent coaches to West Ham and they can all benefit from that.

"That has great flow on benefits for the whole of Australian soccer as it exposes a lot of kids in turn to what those coaches have learned."

Maybe Blacktown will never grace the NSL again, probably not in the club's current form anyway, but no one could ever question their commitment to soccer.

Past players have included some of the big names in the game maybe none bigger than Sr Bobby Charlton and current England manager Kevin Keegan.

Keegan caused a sensation in his guest stint with Blacktown and packed houses wherever he went.

The club has also been

coached by some of the legends in the game including national youth team boss Les Scheinflug.

The future?

Blacktown City have proven beyond all doubt that they are a seasonal favourite for Super league honours.

But that may not be enough for their ability and ambitions in the long term.

Maybe the mooted changes to State League soccer with a switch to summer may prove a compromise.

Time will tell.

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BLACKTOWN CITY SOCCER CLUB 1999: Left to right: BACK ROW: Riches, Cleary, Yates. MIDDLE ROW: Bennett, Angelucci, D'Allesandro, Foxe, Bradley, Smith, Brown. FRONT ROW: Cutler, Lowe, Prior, Greco, Holst, Jackett



1999 Blacktown City coach Brian Brown: former Melbourne Brunswick and Falkirk, Scotland player. Brown took over from fellow Scot Alex Robertson in the early stages of this season.



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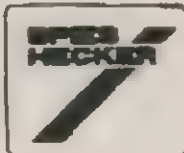
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SYDNEY SOCCER SUPPLEMENT

NSWSF STATE LEAGUES

Sydney Uni
gearing up
for big derby

THE Sydney University Soccer Football Club (SUSFC) has nine teams and over 150 players competing in various competitions from the NSWSF, to Sydney Amateur League to the Protestant Churches' Leagues.

It also participates in the annual state and national university students' soccer tournaments.

The SUSFC is a member club of the Sydney University Sports Union (SUSU) and was named SUSU 1997 Club of the Year for winning the Australian University Games, First Grade Grand Final and Youth Squad Reserves' Grand Final, and finishing Runners Up in Second Grade.

The SUSFC First Grade side currently competes in the NSWSF Division 2, where it is placed 4th as at 3 May, after winning

promotion in consecutive years to move from Division 4 in 1997.

In 1997 the side was placed 2nd in the Premiership and won the Grand Final and in 1998 the students went one better to triumph in both the Premiership and the Championship.

The Club's next major event is The Big Uni Derby match against old rivals and fellow Division Two side, the University of New South Wales, at the Sydney University No. 1 Oval on the June long weekend.

The day will feature sky divers with smoke and streamers, cheer squads, hot and cold refreshments (including a licensed bar) and, of course, the soccer.

The Blue & Gold Sydney University side will be attempting to regain the Kennard Cup (the trophy for the annual victors of this derby

game) from the Black & Gold UNSW side.

Entrance for this great event is FREE so come down and enjoy the entertainment and the soccer.

Following the Big Uni Derby will be a post-match trophy presentation and Old Boys' Reunion at the Grand Stand Bar.

All past and present players/officials/supporters and even opponents of the SUSFC are welcome to this event.

Please register your interest in attending this memorable reunion via the the Big Uni Derby item on the club's web site.

For further information about the club, its teams, current performances, calendar of events, committee contact details and sponsors, please visit our fabulous web site at: www.soccer.usyd.edu.au

Jones names Northern
Women's squad

Northern NSW Soccer Federation Women's coach Mark Jones announced on Thursday 6 May, 1999, his squad to contest the Junior Girls National Titles in Perth during July.

The majority of the team are members of the Hunter Academy of Sport (Soccer) squad along with two ITC players and two from Holiday Coast and one from Soccer Far North Coast.

Jones believes his team will acquit themselves well in Perth on the back of good performances for Northern NSW in the NSW WSL, reserve grade, competition.

After six rounds (round 3 deferred) Northern NSW are undefeated scoring 18 goals and conceding one.

"All but one of the squad play each weekend together and have been playing very well," Jones said. "I would like to think we will be very competitive in Perth."

The squad will come



into camp on Friday 2 July before departing on Saturday, 3 July for Perth ahead of the week long tournament from 4 July to 10 July.

Northern NSW Women's Junior Squad:-
Harmonie Attwill (Holiday Coast), Amy

Baldwin (Dudley), Ainsley Caldwell (Bar Beach), Lauren Colthorpe (Warners Bay), Hayley Crawford (Glendale), Rose Dunne (Holiday Coast), Katie Gill (New Lambton), Tara McMinn (Arcadia Vale), Amber Neilson

(Cessnock), Aimie Neilson (Windale), Bronwyn Nutley (Adamstown), Marnie Scevak (Eraring), Amy Scott (Cessnock), Meegan Shepherd (Blacksmiths), Lorissa Stevens (Paxton), Ashley Wilson (Soccer Far North Coast).

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SYDNEY SOCCER SUPPLEMENT

NSWSF STATE LEAGUES

Eagles aim for Top 4 in Year

UNITED Eagles Soccer Club was formed in 1990 and has had a distinguished association with the NSW Soccer Federation in that time

Season 1999 represents a pivotal year for the club

A new and enthusiastic committee coupled with the opportune closure of three soccer clubs in close proximity means that the Eagles playing stocks have been considerably strengthened.

"The United Eagles have assembled a very strong squad," says long serving

coach Jim Konistis.

"We should be very competitive this season in Division 4.

"With the depth of talent we have at the club it is my goal to see both first and second grade sides make the Top 4."

A difficult start to the season, including two losses in a wet weather double match weekend, saw the Eagles at the wrong end of the table.

However, that has started to change and Konistis, who also plays in goals for the first grade side, is looking to see his early season wish come true.

1999 marks the tenth anniversary of the club and a feature of home matches at Mahoney Reserve, Marrickville is the club's excellent free match day programme.

The United Eagles have training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings

NSW DIVISION 1 ROUND-UP



Granville Greenisland playing football with local business and community support

GRANVILLE Greenisland SFC are one of the oldest clubs in the New South Wales State League.

The Division 4 club was formed in 1953, entering the State League in 1973.

Granville Greenisland is financed from the help of the local small businesses community and the Turkish Cypriot community.

The club extends its thanks to the following businesses for their valued support throughout the 1999 season;

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Steve Chilas
Frank dentis
Con Efthiamidis
Chris Evangelidis
John Gouskos
Charlie karis
Angelo Mandatis
Chris Nikiforidis
Jim Nikiforidis
Daniel Occhipinti
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Jim Dionysopoulos
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ALL THE MAJOR NEW SOUTH WALES CUP WINNERS 1885 - 1997

RAINSFORD CUP		1908	Pymont	1931	West Wallsend	1953	Auburn	1974	APIA Leichhardt
1885	Granville	1909	Adamstown	1932	Weston	1954	Corrimal Rangers	1975	St George
1886	Granville	1910	HMS Powerful	1933	St George	1955	Leichhart-Annandale	1976	Western Suburbs
1887	Hamilton Athletic	1911	Balmain	1934	Weston	1956	Leichhart-Annandale	1977	Bonnyrigg White Eagles
GARDINER CUP		1912	Balmain	1935	Metters	1957	Wallsend	1978	Sutherland
1888	Caledonians	1913	Leichhardt-Annandale	1936	Weston	1958	Awaba	1979	Sydney City
1889	Pymont Rangers	1914	Granville	1937	Wallsend	KENNARD CUP (NSWSF)		1980	Sydney Olympic
1890	Pymont Rangers	1915	Balmain	1938	Metters	1957	Hakoah	1981	Sutherland
1891	Parkgrove	1916	no competition	1939	Weston	1958	Canterbury	1982	St George
1892	Minmi Rangers	1917	no competition	1940	Metters	AMPOL CUP (NSWSF)		1983	Marconi
1893	Pymont Rangers	1918	Weston	1941	Leichhardt-Annandale	1959	Prague	1984	St George
1894	Pymont Rangers	1919	Balmain Fernleigh	1942	Wallsend	1960	St George	1985	Blacktown City
1895	Balmain	1920	Balmain Fernleigh	1943	Merewether Athletic	1961	Prague	1986	Sydney United
1896	Balmain	1921	West Wallsend	1944	Merewether Athletic	1962	Prague	STATE BANK CUP	
1897	Balmain	1922	Granville	STATE LEAGUE CUP (NSWSA)		1963	Yugal	1987	Sydney United
1898	Pymont Volunteers	1923	West Wallsend	1943	Leichhardt Annadale	1964	Prague	CHALLENGE CUP	
1899	Pymont Rangers	1924	West Wallsend	1944	Wallsend	1965	Prague	1989	Canberra Croatia
1900	West Wallsend	1925	Adamstown	1945	West Wallsend	1966	APIA	WARATAH CUP	
1901	West Wallsend	1926	West Wallsend	1946	Canterbury-Bankstown	1967	St George	1991	Blacktown City
1902	Pymont Rovers	1927	Gladesville Ryde	1947	Corrimal Rangers	1968	Hakoah	1992	Bonnyrigg Eagles
1903	Pymont	1928	Thirroul	1948	Leichhardt-Annandale	1969	Prague	1993	Blacktown City
1904	Granville	STATE CUP		1949	Leichhardt-Annandale	1970	APIA	1994	Bankstown City
1905	Balmain	1928	Aberdare	1950	Wallsend	1971	Western Subs	1995	Sydney United
1906	Glebe	1929	Cessnock	1951	Granville	1972	St George	1996	Sydney United
1907	Broadmeadow RA	1930	Adamstown	1952	Wallsend	1973	Hakoah	1997	Wollongong City Wolves

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SYDNEY SOCCER SUPPLEMENT

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES

Bonnyrigg White Eagles; one of the Super League's major clubs

BONNYRIGG White Eagles are regarded as one of the major clubs in the NSW Super League competition.

Formed over 30 years ago, in 1968, as Cabravale and Avala Sports Club they have always been based in the Cabramatta area in the outer west of Sydney.

In the club's early days they were based at Carramar, moving later to Knight Park at Yennora.

Playing as Avala the club won the NSW Second Division in 1976 and were promoted to the then State League first division.

In 1976 Avala set a new home ground attendance record at Carramar when they drew a second division crowd of 4,482 spectators.

The following year they played in front of a 30,000 crowd at the old Sydney Sports Ground when they played Yugal in a curtain raiser match to the Red Star Belgrade v Australia fixture.

Two great players of that era were Agenor Muniz who was

Rothmans gold medal winner in 1983, and Ricky Budini winner in 1984.

In 1992 the club had an amazing season becoming State Super League premiers, Waratah Cup winners then taking out the Championship by winning the Grand Final.

The longest serving member of the White Eagles committee, and still presently involved in the 1999 season, is Jack Cirjanic, who has also in the past held various positions including President, Manager and Secretary.

In 1997 and 1998 the club's First Grade side reached the Grand Final in both seasons only to lose both of them, although they were League Premiers in 98' season.

The 2nd Grade side won the Grand Final in 98' season.

The current 1st Grade Coach and the longest serving in the history of the Club is John Turner.

Bonnyrigg's goal is National League status.

The club is and has been

actively involved in fostering youth development programmes and has six teams in Youth league and five junior teams in the Southern Districts competition.

One of Bonnyrigg's most famous products is Milan Blagojevic who has played extensively at NSL level and over-

Blagojevic has also represented Australia.

Bonnyrigg also enjoyed a very close working relationship with the late John Newman, Member of Cabramatta and also has a close working relationship with Ted Grace office, the local federal member for Fowler.

It is through his office that Bonnyrigg has been successful in obtaining a Commonwealth grant to assist with part of the construction of the Grand Stand.

Bonnyrigg also had a close relationship with local High Schools in the area particularly when trialing players for the Youth League and Senior teams.



Socceroo Milan Blagojevic: a product of the Bonnyrigg youth system

CLUB COACH & PLAYING ROSTER

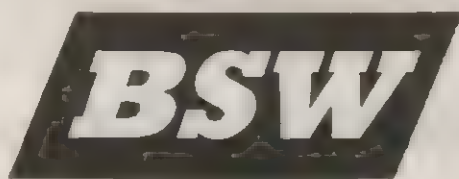
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Steve Dacevski
Alex Gray
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Mike Johnstone
Jovo Djordjevic
Branislav Krstic
Dez Marton
Danny Blanus
Tom Divljak
Cliff Pointer
Kaz Kulek
Mico Skoric
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John Turner

1999 PLAYING STAFF

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Scott Xuereb
Mark Racker
Borislav Dragas
Milan Cmokrak
Paul Richardson
Javier Mancino
David Harding
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the best for 1999*

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES



THE 1990s has seen Bonnyrigg White Eagles become one of the most competitive teams in the NSW Super League.



Robert Gomez is one the key players in John Turner's 1999 side challenging for the Super League championship.



*PAUL DEE pressures Fairfield's Matthew Borg. Dee, who has also played NSL for Marconi and Wollongong returned to the club from Canberra Cosmos.

Wishing the Bonnyrigg White Eagles all the best for 1999

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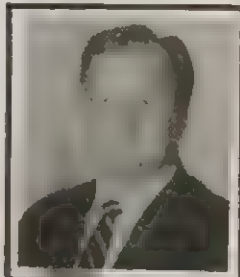
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Best wishes to Bonnyrigg White Eagles for this season. It has been our pleasure to have been associated with the club for over 20 years and to have acted as the Club's Solicitors.



Tihomir (Tic) Stoikovich



Ericson Banfield LLB



Vincent Macri LLB

SYDNEY SOCCER SUPPLEMENT

NSW SUPER LEAGUE BIG MATCH UPDATE

Bulls drop their Berry bundle

by Patrick Galloway

Canterbury Marrickville dealt out a warning to their Super League rivals at Henson Park last Sunday afternoon with a spirited display, defeating Fairfield Bulls 3-1.

The match was certainly not without expectations, with Fairfield looking to secure their top three position on the Super League ladder, while Canterbury were keen to etch closer to their finals aspirations.

From the whistle Canterbury looked a side committed to taking the three points on offer, combining their skill on the ball with strength, and an ability to keep possession. Nick Bosevski set the example to his teammates, doing an excellent job at holding the ball up at the front and utilising his midfielders running of him through the middle of the park.

Canterbury however discovered some opposition in Fairfield's Jason Falzon and Michael Reda, these two worked tirelessly throughout the match and played a large role in keeping Canterbury scoreless for the opening period of the match.

The commencement to the first half certainly served as an indication that the match was going to be a very physical one.

With both sides engaging in some heated tackling, the desperation that both sides possessed became obvious.

In the 26th minute the dead lock was no longer to be.

A long ball from Canterbury's sweeper Jose Mendez saw Steve Christoforidis skilfully flick the ball on to striking partner Nick Bosevski who hit the ball at full pace and made easy work of what was a difficult finish from just inside the area, slotting the ball low and to the right of Fairfield's keeper, Dragon Pupovac.

The goal put a smile onto the faces of the Henson Park faithful and at the same time, gave Canterbury the confidence that they needed to go on with the job.

With Fairfield going into the break a goal down, they would have undoubtedly been reminded of the importance of these three points, but the way they began the



Fairfield Bulls Martin Drienne

first half was quite contrary.

It was that man again, Nick Bosevski who's second goal put the home team two up in the 46th minute.

Talcevski's neat work in midfield saw him play a clever ball to Bosevski just outside the area, who turned his man and fired the ball home, one again leaving Pupovac without a hope.

From this point on Canterbury looked content to rest on their two-goal cushion with Fairfield pushing hard but not coming up with the dividends. Although in 51st minute a very rare Jose Mendez mistake saw Matthew Borg steal the ball and blast the ball wide of Steve Tolios and the posts, with Tolios still not having been called upon to make a real save.

The match was sparked back into life after a back pass to Steve Tolios from Canterbury defender Mi-

chael Raeburn saw an unpressured Tolios attempt to blast the ball out of play, however an uneven Henson Park pitch had other things planned.

Just as Tolios took his back swing the ball ballooned up and over his foot and into the open goalmouth.

Tolios then watched with embarrassment as Darren Iocca tapped the ball home to put the visitors back in the match.

However it was all elementary for Fairfield, as a counter attack in the 90th minute saw Jane Talcevski storm down the left flank to provide an excellent ball to Steve Christoforidis on the back post.

Christoforidis then had time to put away what was an excellent piece of play from one length of the field to the other, firing home Canterbury's third goal, and putting an end to Fairfield's chances of an equaliser.

Canterbury next take on

Blacktown at Gabbie Stadium on Sunday in what should be a fiery encounter, while Fairfield travel to Melita Stadium to take on Parramatta who are sitting mid table and will be looking for a win to boost their finals chances.

AND in other Super League action the programme got off to an earlier start than usual, with Eastern Suburbs and Macarthur Rams playing on the Wednesday night in an arranged match.

The Rams proved far too strong for the Wanderers in winning 4-1, with goals from Richard Lloyd, Eric Williams, Adrian Macerola and Iain McDonald.

Eastern Suburbs reply came from Peter Pulicino, while the Rams had Michael Brooks from Wollongong making his debut.

On Saturday night the Central Coast, struggling near the bottom of the

table, shocked leaders Blacktown City for the second time this season.

After beating the Demons 1-0 at the Gabbie Stadium earlier in the season, the Coasties managed to grab a 1-1 draw through a strike by Dave Maltby.

For Blacktown Jason Bennett notched his ninth of the season.

Macarthur made it a good week for themselves by picking up another three points against Ryde City.

It was a close game though, with Macarthur's goal in their 1-0 victory coming from an own goal by Ryde's Chris Cowley.

No such dramas for Bonnyrigg though, who closed to within a point of Blacktown by defeating the bottom-placed Eastern Suburbs 4-0.

Goals from Milan Crnokrak, Johnny Ghiso, Robert Gomez and Paul Dee sealed all three points.

Leichhardt moved into fourth place with a comfortable 4-1 victory over Sutherland Sharks.

Sutherland took the lead through Craig Hobbs after 15 minutes, but goals by Steve Karavatakis, Tom Bazzaric, Chris Lansdown and Joshua Bulgin saw the Tigers home.

Parramatta Eagles have been in great form recently, but they were defeated by two goals from Bankstown's Mendo Lozevski at Jensen Park.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 16

Saturday 15th May

Central Coast v Leichhardt Tigers

Pluim Park, 6:00pm

Macarthur Rams v Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Lynwood Park, 7:00pm

Sunday 16th May

Parramatta Eagles v Fairfield Bulls

Melita Stadium, 3:00pm

Eastern Suburbs v Bankstown City Lions

Jensen Park, 3:00pm

Blacktown City Demons v Canterbury Marrickville

Gabbie Stadium, 3:00pm

Ryde City v Sutherland Sharks

Wentworth Park, 3:00pm

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VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE UPDATE

Fawkner make it six: Jovic ejected

by Bert van Bedaf

A SERIOUS playing accident overshadowed Fawkner's 2-0 away win against St Albans last Sunday, which also saw the Saints team manager Joe Jovic evicted from the bench and the club languishing fourth bottom at the start of the second half to the Victorian Premier League season.

The victory has secured Fawkner a top-five spot after six wins in a row.

Jovic was told to leave the St Albans bench in the 65th minute after arguing with referee Robert Caminiti.

He has been reported and will need to appear before the Victorian Soccer Federation tribunal.

Jovic apologised after the match, telling Caminiti, "I am very sorry."

Play was held up for 20 minutes, when Fawkner's Enzo De Santis crashed to the ground in the final

moments of the match.

The circumstances of his fall weren't clear.

De Santis challenged for the ball with St Albans forward Kon Sianidis near the sideline between the players' benches at the halfway line.

A fifty-fifty clash appeared to have preceded his fall.

De Santis staggered across the line.

He fell face down to the ground. Caminiti later confirmed there had been no irregularity and no player was booked.

Play was about to restart when DeSantis was seen to be in trouble.

Still on the ground, the Fawkner substitute, for Peter Psarros in the 78th minute, was convulsing.

The physiotherapists from both teams and Fawkner coach Ken Murphy rushed to the player's aid.

St Albans coach Vid Horvat also looked on concerned.

A stretcher was called for.

An on-field argument erupted between the Fawkner and St Albans players.

There was pushing and shoving as angry Fawkner players blamed Sianidis for the accident.

Later several Fawkner players pointed the finger at another St Albans forward.

Caminiti and officials calmed the situation as the focus swung to the stricken player, who was bleeding from the mouth.

An ambulance arrived after 11 minutes.

Paramedics assisted De Santis through a second convulsion until eventually he rose for the first time after 15 minutes under spontaneous applause from anxious spectators.

Assisted by Murphy, De Santis walked clockwise across the ground, receiving more heart-warming applause from the worried crowd, before

alighting the ambulance to a nearby hospital.

Play was resumed with a ball-up, but Caminiti whistled for full time after the first few touches.

Players, officials nor spectators were about to quibble over possible added time-on after the dramatic circumstances.

The shocked players shook hands as they left the ground.

Fawkner took the lead after 24 minutes, from a free-kick set-piece just outside the box. Joe Biskic backrolled the ball with the sole of his boot to defender John Gri-maud, who smashed it home at the first touch.

Captain Tony Schipano, who is playing in his 25th year for Fawkner, starting as a junior, nearly extended the lead, but St Albans 'keeper Marijan Vunderl blocked his shot.

Sianidis nearly levelled for the Saints, but he headed the ball poorly

from a Damir Movric cross.

Saints captain Mick Culina missed another chance to equalise, when he headed over the bar in the 51st minute from a Greg Saric cross.

The Saints missed their third chance in the 63rd minute.

This time Colina's shot was blocked by Fawkner defender Paul Ferrante and cleared.

Fawkner doubled their lead a minute later.

Outstanding midfielder Ivan Duzel crossed the ball from the left and the Blues best striker Santo Emmanuele struck the net with a low, left-foot volley.

Fawkner created a few more chances and Saric was twice denied a St Albans goal by Fawkner 'keeper Maurice Gonzalez in the 82nd and 87th minutes, but events were soon overtaken by the life-threatening accident to De Santis.

The post-match

Fawkner dressing room mood was subdued.

"We won, but we're deflated at the moment," a shaken Murphy said.

"I was scared. I've never seen anything like it in my life. He (De Santis) had a massive convulsion. He was bleeding from the mouth," a shocked Schipano said.

The De Santis incident completely dominated the regular elements of the contest.

For St Albans the loss spells disaster. With four

clubs relegating this season, the fourth-bottom Saints are well and truly in the gun.

"We're in a dangerous position. But I'm sure we won't be part of the four teams that relegate," St Albans coach Vid Horvat said.

In the relegation zone six weeks ago, Fawkner has rocketed into the top five with six wins in a row and the players are talking of taking the title.

"We turned it around," Schipano said. "We stuck together as a team."

"That's what it's all about. We're taking it a game at the time and we'll see how far we can go."

AND defending champion Bulleen finally broke the drought, beating South Dandenong 1-0 last Saturday.

Sava Rusmir scored for the Kings, who had not won a match in two months.

They last tasted victory

in round six, when they beat St Albans 3-1.

The hot and cold season of Altona Magic ran hot again with a 1-0 victory over Bentleigh Greens.

Macedonian import Toni Trifunov gave the Magic their first win since round nine, when they beat South Dandenong 5-1.

But the biggest cheerio is reserved for bottom battlers Sunshine.

The Georgies edged past Altona East 1-0 with a

goal by Alfonzo Opazo to record their third win of the season.

Preston maintained the pressure on Port Melbourne and Green Gully with a 3-1 win over Springvale White Eagles.

Kamer Simsek scored twice and Ivan Filipovski once for the Lions. Completing round 13 last Monday night Westvale drew 2-2 with Preston, while South Dandenong trounced the Melbourne Radriers 4-1.

IN ROUND 14 action on Sunday, Fawkner takes on the Melbourne Raiders in a tight contest.

Both teams are top four contestants.

Although they're unlikely to win the VPL title, they're keen to finish in the upper regions as a launching pad for next season's summer competition in October, which is set to feature a top-four finals in a 12-team league.

In other Sunday

matches, Port Melbourne should win at home to Springvale, Preston should do the same against Sunshine, Altona East and Altona Magic might play a draw, while Bentleigh Greens are likely to beat St Albans at home.

On Monday night, Bulleen is set for a hard-fought win at home to Westvale, while Green Gully should get past South Dandenong at the Reserve.

BISKIC FAVOURED AT KNIGHTS

by Bert van Bedaf

JOE Biskic is frontrunner to stay as coach of Ericsson Cup club Melbourne Knights, but his appointment is not certain.

"Joe's our leading candidate. He's impressed a lot of people. But we can't rush into anything too quickly," a cautious

full time and money are sticking points

Knights general manager Damien Phillips said.

Playing with Fawkner, Biskic made little comment.

"We've talked," he said.

The 39-year-old midfielder is a legend at the

Knights and has done well since taking over from former coach Vid Horvat during the season.

The sticking points are money and the club's desire to employ a full-time coach. The Knights

want a full-time coach, but Biskic is reluctant to resign his daytime job as an electrical fitter.

"If they want me full-time they'll have to offer good money," Biskic said.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND-UP

With Roy Hay

Falcons stage remarkable comeback to down the Blues

Gippsland Falcons qualified for the final of the Southern Division against Carlton with an incredible four-three win over South Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium after sudden death extra time.

No one could have contemplated the turnaround which occurred after South Melbourne ran away to a three-nil lead in 53 minutes.

Grant Kennedy was the star with all three goals, in 15, 31 and 53 minutes.

Seven minutes later John Hutchinson scored for Falcons and the fight-back began.

Five minutes later it

was Robert Puca's turn to score

There were only ten minutes left to play and the force was with Gippsland and the pressure told as South Melbourne conceded an own goal as Jonathan Buha-giar's effort was deflected.

So the match went to sudden death extra time and in the first minute Ross Duckworth scored for Falcons to bring this pulsating encounter to an end.

South Melbourne players and coaches were devastated after finishing clear second on the lad-

der and having what appeared to be an unassailable lead, but the Falcons' celebrations could be heard back in Morwell.

Coach Mark Cassar said: "We never gave up and had a goal disallowed after we equalised during normal time".

Sydney Olympic gained a place in the Northern Division Final with a convincing three-nil victory over the Australian Institute of Sport at Marconi Stadium on Sunday.

Jim Bakis scored twice in 11 and 35 minutes to set up the win and Adrian Cervinski made certain of

the result with a goal in 80 minutes.

Olympic coach Peter Papanikitas said afterwards: "We played good one-touch soccer throughout and had a couple of shots cleared off the line as well."

"We totally dominated for long spells and deserved the result".

The AIS will now play Northern Spirit in the Northern Division Preliminary final with the details to be announced next week, but it is likely to be before or after the NSL match between Sydney United and South Melbourne.

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

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Long distance marriage works in WA

by Jason Marocchi

ASHFIELD and Bunbury are more than 200 kilometres apart, but distance has not got in the way of this successful marriage. In 1995 Ashfield Dynamo raised more than a few eyebrows in the West Australian soccer community, by announcing a merger with Bunbury United. First Division Ashfield was struggling to field a youth side and Bunbury was not viable for many cash-strapped Second Division clubs, who refused to travel south to play United. Bunbury approached Ashfield after contacting several of the states 'more prestigious' clubs, who laughed at the idea of merging with a club 200 kilometres south-west of Perth.

The merger allowed Bunbury's youngsters to play in the state's elite competition and guaranteed the survival of the Ashfield club.

Ashfield-Bunbury president John Van Hoek, the boss at Ashfield Dynamo at the time, said the two clubs were perfect for each other.

"We needed a youth team and their talented kids needed somewhere to go," he said. "We fell in love straight away."

The merger uncovered a gold-mine of talented youngsters for the Ashfield club, arguably having the best junior set up in the state at their disposal.

Ashfield-Bunbury has dominated the state's youth competition, winning the Division One title in 1997 along with cup wins in 1996 and 1998 against Premier League opposition. A number of these youngsters are now part of the senior team which won the Division One title last year and promotion to the Premier League. Eighteen-year-olds Kim Sue, Steve Rogers and the Trimm twins, Daniel and Damien, are all first team regulars who have come up through the youth team.

Blend them in with experienced player-coach Rob McCallum, a former Scottish U/21 international, and Sasha Garic, an ex-Red Star Belgrade youth player who has scored 100 goals in two seasons, and the club has the foundations for a side that will give the Premier League heavyweights a real shake.

Van Hoek said the merger has given Bunbury's youngsters the chance to play the game at the highest level.

"If it wasn't for Ashfield none of these kids would be playing in the Premier League," he said. "There are a couple boys here who could go on to play for Glory, who would have went unnoticed if they weren't given the opportunity in this league."

Van Hoek said that more clubs should follow Ashfield's lead and merge with a country club.

"There is a wealth of talent in the country areas," he said. "Look at the AFL, all the best players are from the country areas but we deny these kids. Ashfield wants to promote the game and all the other clubs should do the same."

Half the squad trains in Bunbury and the other half at the club's home ground at Ashfield Reserve. The Bunbury boys come up to Perth by bus every Saturday to play. Van Hoek said the separation of the squad was not a problem.

"Today's players are tradesman and know how to get the job done," he said. "If I had a bricklayer in Ashfield and another bricklayer in Bunbury, they wouldn't build half a house each, they would build two houses".

If results are anything to go by, distance does wonders. After losing their first two games in the Premier League, Ashfield-Bunbury have won the next two, defeating glamour club Perth 1-0 two weeks ago.

"That was the pinnacle," Van Hoek said. "I remember last time Ashfield played Perth in a cup game 16 years ago, we lost 11-2. How things have changed."

Van Hoek though has his feet on the ground. He said the main aim for the club this season was to avoid relegation.

"Avoiding relegation is our first objective," he said. "If we stay up this year I have no doubt that with our great junior set up, we will be around for a long while."

The club is also progressing off the pitch. Three years ago Ashfield Reserve received a \$1.25 million facelift. There are now plans to improve the ground even further. With state and local government assistance, the club is looking to build a balcony on top of its grandstand so its members can watch the game from an elevated position.

The club also has two pitches which are floodlight and are pushing to host the night series next season. In four years Ashfield-Bunbury have gone from two struggling clubs in the lower divisions to one of the best Premier League set ups in the state. Who said that long distance relationships never work?

Fremantle bounce back against Panthers

by Jason Marocchi

Fremantle City bounced back from last week's shock loss to ECU Joondalup with a 4-1 victory over the Bayswater City Panthers in the Soccer West Coast Premier League.

Two goals in both halves set up the win for Fremantle, with Robin Dyers scoring twice for the victors.

The win keeps Fremantle on level points with Sorrento and Western Knights, who both recorded easy wins on the weekend.

Sorrento stayed on top of the ladder and boosted their already impressive goal difference with a 6-0 hammering of the Inglewood Falcons.

Striker Simon Harland grabbed a hat-trick and Todd Harnwell, Glenn Thomas and Ross Greer got the others.

Western Knights continue to breathe down the necks of Sorrento, post-

ing a 4-1 win over Perth.

The Knights led 1-0 at half time but ran away with the game after the break, with Karl Medica scoring two and Scott Divine

and Trim Morgan also finding the back of the net.

Sorrento have a goal difference of positive 16 after five rounds, six better than closest rival Western Knights and 12

ahead of Fremantle City.

The Knights travel to struggling Cockburn City this week and Fremantle host the win-less Stirling Lions, while Sorrento will face a determined Floreat Athena, who will be looking for an upset win at the opening of their new ground. In other results Floreat defeated Stirling 3-0 and Ashfield-Bunbury made it three on the trot with a 2-1 victory over Cockburn.



Vas Kalogeracos: now playing in WA Premier League

Floreat open "best ground in WA"

by Jason Marocchi

FLOREAT Athena will officially open the E&D Litis Soccer and Sports Stadium against Sorrento on Saturday.

Litis Stadium is the \$640,000 re-development of Floreat's home at the former Velodrome, the site built for the 1962 Empire Games cycling competition.

The Ministry for Sport and Recreation and the Town of Vincent have each contributed \$190,000 to the re-development, with club members and sponsors footing the rest of the bill.

The Litis family, associated with the Floreat club for many years, have been given naming rights to the stadium after a \$150,000 donation towards the re-development.

Work on the ground started in the middle of last season after Floreat were scheduled to play all their first round matches at home, allowing renovations to begin without interruption.

The concrete cycling track which surrounded

the pitch has been removed, allowing for the often criticised small field to be enlarged.

The old wooden seating enclosing the former track has also been removed and replaced with three grass banks which look down onto the ground.

Concrete terracing has been put up around the grand-stand and a number of plastic seats are

also available to spectators in front of the club-rooms.

Floreat president Peter Pilkadaris said the ground could hold up to 12,000 people and was the best soccer facility in Western Australia.

"It is definitely the best ground in the state," he said. "Not only have we built a ground which will benefit Floreat Athena, we have provided a

ground to cater for the needs of Soccer West Coast."

Pilkadaris said that the club wanted to host all of Soccer West Coast's big games at the ground, including cup finals, top-five playoffs and the night series.

Floreat and Sorrento's league sides will be the first teams to do battle on the new surface, with U/18 and reserve fixtures

pushed back until after the league clash.

"We wanted our league side to open the ground and be the first team to use the surface," Pilkadaris said.

He said members of state and local government along with Soccer West Coast representatives and club sponsors would be among the guests to witness the opening of the ground.

Heywood takes legal advice

FORMER Monaro coach Ian Heywood is considering taking legal action against a local newspaper after a report which labelled his departure from the club as a "sacking".

Heywood and the club parted company ten days ago after the coach was summoned to appear before Monaro president John Barilaro.

"We had a number of differences - but they were more of a personal nature," says the former Canberra Cosmos assistant coach. "John was also upset about the article in the *Queanbeyan Age* because it doesn't place either of us in a good light."

"I wasn't sacked or dismissed - we couldn't agree on a number of things and we both decided that this would be in the best interest of the club."

"As I said to Barilaro, he could always replace me with another coach but if he pulled his financial support out of the club it would be impossible to replace it. That is the way it goes in football."

Heywood came to the Queanbeyan-based club two

seasons ago and completely transformed it from a struggling outfit which had only won one game into a championship contender.

He has been replaced by the man who was coach before he stepped in, former player Tony Brennan.

Brennan also had a short spell as caretaker coach of the Canberra Cosmos this season following the departure of Rale Rasic.

Ironically, Monaro has only lost twice in the last 20 competitive games under Heywood's control but he fell foul of the direction that the club's committee wanted to take.

Now he is concerned that the aggressive story and headline in a local paper could damage both the reputations of himself and his former club.

"This is a small town and people talk," he said.

"Why should I have a paper saying I was sacked when I wasn't? Sacking implies I did something wrong - how can you call two losses out of 20 games wrong?"

ACT BIG MATCH UPDATE

TOP OF THE TABLE CLASH ENDS IN DRAW

by Nick Guoth

Weston Creek Royals and Belconnen United played out a hard-fought 1-1 draw at Woden Park on Sunday.

The result showed how even the competition is near the top of the ACT Premier League table.

Weston were without two key players in Martin Lazzari and Manuel Sermano, both injured.

Even so, their replacements performed admirably.

Bels relied on their height, both at the back with Jason Dunn and up front with their Ericsson Cup import, Marko Perinovic.

Even so, the Creek took the early lead after only eight minutes of play.

Matthew Stocks cleared the ball from a dangerous situation to Justin Webb.

Webb's long ball into attack found Steve Lazzari on the edge of the box and the Belconnen defence rather flat footed.

With time to look up, Lazzari placed his shot giving Rade Kozanovic,

in goal, no chance.

Belconnen should have equalised only a few minutes later after a corner kick was headed down by Perinovic only to see Matt Whyte sky his shot from a few metres out.

They continued the pressure and again had their chance on the quarter hour when a goal-mouth scramble saw a number of shots either blocked or cleared off the line.



Belconnen's Jason Dunn

Then with 22 minutes on the clock, Luke Larfield was allowed to waltz through the defence and into the penalty area.

He followed the run with a pin-point shot past Hassan Adhami to tie up

the score.

Belconnen continued to apply the pressure with the rest of the half being played in the Weston Creek half.

Yet the Creek, to their credit, were able to soak this up.

The best chance of the remaining minutes came from a Perinovic header that beat Adhami, but not Yoshi Sato who was guarding the line with his life.

After the break, both teams settled down and the chances were rare.

Only on the rare occasion was either keeper called into action.

One of these came about when Perinovic set

up his striking partner Matt Whyte.

The initial shot was smothered well by Adhami, and fortunately for him, his defence was on hand to clear the ball from danger.

With time starting to run out, Belconnen again pushed forward only to see the Weston defence hold out.

The final shot of the day fell to Stuart Camara, who from some 30m out

sent a line-drive that forced Adhami to tip over for a corner.

Weston coach, Jimmy Bland was pleased with his teams performance stating: "we're closing the gap, in football terms, between us and Belconnen."

"We can stand up and be counted. Our boys showed a lot of character given what they threw at us."

Lino Fiorese, on the other hand, was disappointed.

"Again we made silly mistakes and errors. Bad finishing let us down today."

"The defence did okay and we were able to create a number of chances, but we just didn't punish them"

AT THE University of Canberra grounds, the ever improving Canberra Deakin continued their small run of wins by defeating University 3-0. Gaby Exposito scored from the penalty spot whilst Vince Bodo notched a pair.

Deakin coach Ian Shaw felt that this was a great performance, especially after the Wednesday night ordeal.

Shaw singled out goalkeeper Pablo Pavez as having another excellent game, but also gave praise to his young players.

One concern for Shaw leading up to next weekend's Federation Cup final is that defender Mladin Rogic may have a

broken nose.

Uni coach Rod Lynes said: "Two bad goals gave ourselves a mountain to climb".

Lynes was happier with the second half commitment, but he liked his players to defend much better.

One shining light, for the second week in a row was Ross Docherty.

AT Riverside Stadium in Queanbeyan, Queanbeyan City Lions moved closer to their first win when they went down 5-3 to Gungahlin Juventus.

Cosmos player, Danny Burt, has made a lot of difference to the team.

Goalscorers for Juventus were a pair to each George Cattanach and

John Glass and one to Josip Zamora.

Josip's brother, Oscar, also missed a penalty.

On the other side not is much known except that Frances Pratazina scored the first and Goran Veljanovski put in the third.

Juventus led 5-1 after one half, but Queanbeyan scored immediately after the break.

Monaro too good for 10 man Olympic

by Greg Welsh

MONARO bounced back from a mid-week defeat in the Federation Cup to beat Canberra Olympic 2-0 in their ACT Premier League clash at O'Connor Oval on Sunday.

The game was a tight affair from the outset, and chances were evenly shared in the first half-an-hour.

But Monaro gained the upper hand in the 35th minute when Olympic full-back Peter Mazis was sent off after bringing down Lazar Simeonov from behind.

The incident left Olympic temporarily disorganised at the back, and Simeonov meted out full punishment four minutes later as he latched on to a Jimmy Baxter cutback,

dribbled around Olympic keeper Angelo Konstantinou, and calmly brought up the first goal of the game.

Olympic quickly regained their composure, and over the next hour both sides slugged it out in exciting fashion.

"I thought they played better with ten men," said Monaro caretaker-coach Andrew Monterosso.

"They attacked more. It's always the case I suppose when you're a man down and 1-0 down."

But despite applying sustained pressure, Olympic were unable to breach the Monaro defence, with Paul Macor and John Nelson later receiving praise from Monterosso for outstanding performances at the back.

Midfielder Joe Cam-

pagna picked up Monaro's second goal just three minutes before the final whistle, when Olympic were caught on the break after another attacking foray had broken down.

The win takes Monaro to within one point of league leaders Belconnen United, and was particularly enjoyable to Monterosso coming so soon after their unlucky Federation Cup elimination mid-week.

"From Wednesday night the boys improved 100%, they got stuck more into the game today," the Monaro coach said.

Monterosso named midfielder John Rakic as "probably the best on the park."

Suns shine

by Greg Welsh

A question mark hangs over the result of Saturday night's game between the Capital City Suns and Burns Club after the lights went out at Greenway Oval in second-half stoppage time, with the Suns leading 4-0.

Burns are expected to appeal the validity of the match, and although referee Ben Williams blew time a few moments after the lights shut down, they will have a good case for having the game officially abandoned.

If that is the final ruling, the Suns can count themselves rather hard done by to say the least, as they outplayed their opponents all over the park and thoroughly deserved the three points on offer.

A Suns' free-kick just

outside the left-hand corner of the penalty box in the 16th minute almost brought up the first goal of the game.

Gus Cerro swung in a vicious right-foot shot that smacked against the crossbar, much to the relief of Burns' keeper Matt Melgaard.

Just over 20 minutes later, Burns had their best chance of the half when Greg Lemin's long ball from the back found Scott Hayes in space down the right flank.

Despite the acute angle, Hayes' shot was perfectly struck and demanded an excellent save from Suns' keeper Tony Giannasca.

The Suns returned from the break determined to turn their first-half dominance into goals, but when a Cerro free-kick in the 56th minute again found the crossbar, it

looked like it may not be the Suns' night.

But the classy forward was finally rewarded in the 66th minute after a delightful one-two with striking partner Tony Lemezina.

At the other end, Gian-nasca produced another outstanding save to maintain the lead, before three goals inside five minutes seemingly put the game beyond doubt.

Midfielder David Stambolziev found the top left-hand corner of the net twice - the first a neat header from Ilija Prenzowski's cross and the second a well-placed shot from Cerro's deflected corner.

A defensive hand-ball inside the box a minute later gifted Lemezina with the fourth, and for the next ten minutes the game seemed to coast along before darkness

enveloped the ground.

Suns coach Bill Dojcinowski said after the game: "I don't think we played very well in the first-half, I think we went in a bit too individually up front, and we couldn't put it away."

"I reckon we should have been three, four or five up in the first-half but it didn't happen."

"I had a bit of a chat to the boys at half-time. I wanted them to work a little bit more closer together up front ... and it worked dividends."

Dojcinowski heaped praise upon two-goal hero Stambolziev.

"Coming from the reserve grade last year, I'm very happy with him," the coach said. "He had a new role tonight, because we are missing three players from our starting line-up."



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Joeys qualify for semi finals in Fiji

v Papua New Guinea

STRIKER Joe di Iorio stole a hat-trick in a 16 minute spell as the Joeys hammered Papua New Guinea 8-0 in the Oceania second qualifying round for the World Under 17 championships last Monday.

Di Iorio outclassed the PNG defence and was replaced by Fabian Lettieri early in the second half. Australia led 4-0 at half time in temperatures in the low 30s as coach

Les Scheinflug switched players in an endeavour to reduce the effects of the heat.

"It was like playing on a concrete jungle out there," Scheinflug said.

"As much as I tried to help the players adapt to the conditions, it's difficult to play football when you need 30 seconds to control a bouncing ball.

"With a kick-off under the midday sun, the main object is for the players to conserve as much en-

ergy as possible but still win the game."

Midfielder Lucas Pantelis put the Joeys ahead with a 14th minute penalty and di Iorio took the score to the half time break with goals in the 18th, 23rd and 34th minutes.

The remaining goals were scored by Dylan MacAllister (68), Shane Cansdell-Sherriff (78), Scott McDonald (80) and James Johnson five minutes from time.

v Cook Islands

SCOTT McDonald knocked up a hat-trick in Australia's 8-nil win over the Cook Islands.

Playing in conditions which limited the skill of the Australians, the 15-year-old McDonald scored three times in the space of ten minutes in the first half. Midfielder Jade North put Australia on the scoreboard in the 16th minute and then 17 minutes later Australia went two up through James Johnston.

McDonald then scored his hat-trick with goals coming in the 37th, 43rd and 47th minutes.

Defender Iain Fyfe added another goal nine minutes into the second half with the Australia once again catching the Cook Islands defence with a through-ball.

South Australian Mislav Saric then completed the scoring in the 57th and 71st minutes.

"The ground conditions were very hard, again reducing the skill level of our players," complained coach Les Scheinflug afterwards.

"Again we tried to con-

Australia's draw:

Sat 1 May	v Fiji	WON 2-1
Mon 3 May	v Papua New Guinea	WON 8-0
Wed 5 May	v Cook Islands	WON 8-0
Fri 7 May	v American Samoa	WON 15-0
Mon 10 May	v Vanuatu	
Wed 12 May	Winner Pool 1 v Runner-up Pool 2	
	Winner Pool 2 v Runner-up Pool 1	
Fri 14 May	Final and 3rd/4th place play-off	

serve our energy for the matches ahead.

"It was a solid performance, we did well, and, despite the conditions, the scoreline could have been much higher.

"We couldn't have scored any less goals and I can't stop our boys from pushing forward and pressuring the defence."

v American Samoa

Joe di Iorio and Scott McDonald both notched up their second hat-trick of the tournament in Australia's crushing 15-nil victory over American Samoa on Friday.

Midfielder Anthony Doumanis was also in an attacking frame of mind, scoring on four occasions for the Australian Under-17 outfit.

Defender Aaron Goulding opened the scoring for the Joeys in the 15th minute.

Doumanis scored four minutes later, followed by McDonald's hat-trick in the 22nd, 26th and 38th minutes.

The Australians increased their lead to 6-nil four minutes before the half-time whistle, Doumanis scoring his second goal after a Mislav Saric corner kick was neatly knocked down into Doumanis' path by Dylan MacAllister.

The 6-nil score line at the break was enhanced in the 46th minute as James Johnson unleashed a thunderbolt 15 yards out from goal.

Saric then scored in the 49th, followed by a Doumanis penalty for minutes

later after Iain Fyfe was brought down in the box.

The Australians then sat back and conserved energy in the adverse conditions before Di Iorio opened his account, scoring in the 75th and 78th minutes.

Saric added another goal one minute later, Di Iorio in the 83rd, Doumanis in the 87th, with Di Iorio completing the scoring rout in the 90th.

Coach Les Scheinflug said: "Once again it was a good result for us. We haven't been put under any pressure yet during the qualifiers, and at times it has been frustrating given the conditions in which we have had to play. Still, the main thing is we continued to conserve energy for our upcoming matches."

OCEANIA UNDER-17S QUALIFYING CHAMPIONSHIP - Fiji

AUSTRALIA 8 (L Pantelis 14 pen, J Di Iorio 18 23 34, D MacAllister 68, S Cansdell-Sherriff 78, S McDonald 80, J Johnson 85)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA 0

AUSTRALIA: J Kedwell-Vanstrattan, S Cansdell-Sherriff, A Goulding, S Laurie, M Byrnes [c], R Culibrk, L Pantelis (I Fyfe 65), J Johnson, L Brain (S McDonald 46), D MacAllister 53, J Di Iorio (F Lettieri 48')

AUSTRALIA 8 (J North 16, J Jonson 32, S McDonald 37, 43, 47, I Fyfe 54, M Saric 57, 71)

COOK ISLANDS 0

AUSTRALIA: M Milosevic, S Lockhart, S Laurie, W Srhoj, J Johnson, A Doumanis, J North, I Fyfe, F Lettieri (L Brain 80), S McDonald, M Saric

AUSTRALIA 15 (A Goulding 15, A Doumanis 19, 41, pen 53, 87, S McDonald 22, 26, 38, J Johnson 46, M Saric 49, 79, J Di Iorio 75, 78, 83, 90)

AMERICAN SAMOA 0

AUSTRALIA: J Kedwell-Vanstrattan, S Lockhart (M Byrnes 60), S Laurie, A Goulding, I Fyfe, A Doumanis, J Johnson, W Srhoj (J North 46), D MacAllister, M Saric, S McDonald (J Di Iorio 60)

The Bill Turner Cup

AUSTRALIA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS YOUTH TOURNAMENT

brought to you by DUNTROON PUBLISHING

THANKS to the organisational abilities of Kevin Smith, Bill Turner Cup NSW Central Coast area manager, plus the co-operation of the local schools and coaches almost the entire area first round was completed at Plum Park last Wednesday.

Two qualifying games had been completed earlier in the week with Gorokan defeating Northlakes 4-2 while Tumby Umbi finish 5-1 winners over Wyong.

The first game of the day was overshadowed

by a broken leg sustained by Paul Burnicle of Kincumber. There appeared to be nothing in the tackle which happened just thirty seconds from full time.

The strong Gosford High side were too strong for Kincumber, winning 6-1.

In arguably the best match of the day Gorokan accounted for Umina 3-1. Umina had their chances and during one sustained attacking period in the first half had Gorokan defending for about 15 minutes.

Gorokan came back to take the lead and as full time loomed, with Umina throwing men forward in an attempt to equalise, Gorokan broke through to notch its third.

Narrara Valley and The Entrance played a tight fixture but goals from Shane Clenz and Kyle Waiman made the difference for Narrara.

Goals from Aaron Scully (2), Cameron Beaton and David Monaghan saw Terrigal defeat a gallant Woy Woy 4-0.

Henry Kendall forwards must still be shak-

ing their heads in disbelief when three first half and two second half one-on-one shots at goal went begging.

This did not deter Lisarow's Chris Fitzsimmons from scoring the decider and holding on for a spirited victory.

Tumby Umbi continued on their winning way with an eight goal romp against Gosford Christian School.

Matt Leach (4), Jake Curley (2), Andrew Irving and Jayson Melrose were the scorers.

This score-line may not

appear to flatter the Christian School, however the squad is made up largely of Year 7 lads at the moment.

Coach Robert Chandler is working to a plan to develop soccer in the school.

He hopes to keep his squad together during the next three years.

In the day's final encounter Mater Dei outlasted a determined Erina to win 2-0.

Kristian Hooge and Billy Byrne were the scorers.

This match was con-

trolled by a man, who in the opinion of the writer, must be one of the top referees on the Central Coast, Gordon Selkirk.

It was great to have him give his services to the competition.

Looking on was one of Sydney's top referees of yesteryear, Ray Sandell, who still gives great service to soccer on the Central Coast.

A ROUND one match that was as good as any third round fixture saw former champions Glendale High defeat St

Marys High. Gateshead 2-1.

The first half saw St Marys putting Glendale on the back foot and it took a Mitch Henry goal, somewhat against the run of play, to put the black and whites on track.

In the second half both goalkeepers, Mitchell O'Brien, St Marys and Colin Clarke, Glendale, were called on repeatedly.

Another Mitch Henry goal and a reply by Shane Hunt closed the scoring for the day.

Duntroon Publishing
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Golden goal sees Deakin into final

by Dylan Durie

A Golden Goal from Ben Deighan gave Canberra Deakin a stunning come-from-behind victory against Monaro in their Federation Cup semi-final at Greenway Oval on Wednesday night.

Deighan's strike came in the 4th minute of extra time after Ante Mijoc worked a clever one-two on the edge of the area before hitting across-shot into the path of Deighan to slam home from close range.

Monaro had taken the lead in the 75th minute through Lazar Simeonov who squirmed the ball past the keeper at the far post after a long throw had been headed on.

Monaro then looked set to book their place in the final against Canberra Olympic until an injury time equaliser from Anthony Rakic, who headed home after a wonderful long ball by A Williams.

The goal came just moments after Danny Macor had a good chance to bury Deakin when was put clean through on goal

THE ACT Federation Cup Final looks to be another classic with Canberra Olympic taking on Canberra Deakin next weekend at the AIS Athletic Field.

Olympic humiliated holders Belconnen United to the tune of 4-0 two weeks ago and last week Deakin needed a winner in extra-time to defeat Monaro.



Monaro's Jimmy Baxter: he squandered a late chance to grab a goal

but 'keeper Pedro Pavez made a fantastic double save to give his team the chance at victory which they took.

With the final play of normal time Jimmy Bax-

ter squandered a simple chance to snatch victory for Monaro when he headed just over from a very good position when he was unmarked.

These dramatic final

Simeonov's goal brought the game to life with an end-to-end final 15 minutes. Victorious coach Ian Shaw was very satisfied with the result as he emerged from the jubilant

Deakin dressing room, saying he was proud of his players for the way they hung in and that he is looking forward to the final with great enthusiasm.

ACT WOMEN'S SOCCER

Bels continue good form

by Anya Whitclaw

Pre-season cup winners Belconnen United have continued to show good form with a 5-1 win over Weston Creek at Dickson on Sunday.

Weston Creek with their Canberra Eclipse players did well to limit their opposition to five goals, keeper Georgie Hadden having an outstanding game.

Scoring the first of her three goals for the match, Tracey Floro put Belconnen onto the board 10 minutes into the game, ramming the ball into the top of the net.

Belconnen's Karen Heath went one on one with Hadden who managed to block two shots from close range before the ball was finally chipped over her head.

Belconnen going to the half-time break with a 2-0 lead.

Weston's Lisa Hartley left the field with an injured ankle shortly into the second half, and her team had to defend with 10 players for around five minutes.

Belconnen scored their

third goal for the game when a Floro corner kick passed the main pack of players, falling at the feet of Dior Foxhill who converted.

The final two goals both came from penalty kicks taken by Floro from outside the box.

The first sailed into the top right hand corner, and, unfortunately for Weston the second came when the ball deflected off their defensive wall.

A consolation goal did come to Weston however, Leanne Mills making a fast break down the left flank to score for her side, to take the final score to 5-1 in Belconnen's favour.

Weston Creek coach Arnie Van Himthom was optimistic despite his team's loss saying: "They are a very young side and I am proud of the way they held things together out there on the field without three of their senior players."

In other matches ACTAS defeated Tuggeranong United 2-0, with Canberra City also taking a 2-0 victory over Burns-Brindabella.



ASICS BIG MATCH UPDATE: NSL TOP SIX SERIES

Harnwell sets up history making Glory finals victory

By Scott Coghlan

IN FRONT of 25,000 delirious fans, Perth Glory came back from the dead to snatch a berth in the NSL semi-finals from Adelaide City in the second leg of their elimination final series at the WACA Ground on Sunday night.

Two goals in the last 19 minutes - the winner coming in the 91st minute courtesy of a Bobby Despotovski header - enabled the Glory to win 2-1 and earn another home final this weekend.

It was a win Perth richly deserved on the balance of play, but one that had looked impossible for much of the second half.

Adelaide looked set to cause a huge upset when star striker Damian Mori gave it a shock 1-0 lead against the run of play 25 minutes into the second half.

Glory had been dominating general play and created nearly a dozen scoring

**PERTH GLORY 2 (Harnwell, Despotovski)
ADELAIDE CITY 1 (Mori)
Venue: WACA
Man of the Match: Jamie Harnwell PRTH**

chances, but Mori capitalised after winning a free kick just outside the penalty area.

Mori's low shot deflected off a Perth defender and into the right hand corner of the net to give his side the lead and stun the home crowd.

A 1-1 draw would have let Adelaide advance on the away goals rule and the Glory suddenly found itself needing two goals in 20 minutes against the best defensive side in the NSL, which had already kept the Perth side at bay for 160 minutes.

Just when Adelaide could have been expected to pull up the shutters, a cross from Rob Trajkovski found Jamie Harnwell with plenty of space in the box and his header gave City keeper Jason Petkovic no chance.

Glory surged forward time and again in the dying minutes, but Adelaide appeared to be doing enough defensively to hold on for a 1-1 draw and a spot in the semis.

But 30 seconds into overtime, Harnwell produced another piece of magic to set up a goal that will become folklore at the infant NSL club.

It was Harnwell's header into the box that enabled Despotovski to head well out of reach of a despairing Petkovic and snatch an amazing win for Perth.

Colourful Glory coach Bernd Stange was jubilant after the win, as he showed by spontaneously kissing a policeman on duty at the game when the final whistle was blown by referee Simon Micallef.



Bobby Despotovski: snatched late winner to send Glory into the semi final

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ASICS BIG MATCH UPDATE: NSL TOP SIX SERIES

Plesa rocket keeps United in with an away goal chance

by Alan Clark

IT WAS a score-line both coaches claimed satisfactory - South coach Ange Postecoglou seeing his team's 2-1 win as a win, and Sydney United coach David Mitchell focussing on the deficit being but a single goal with both the home leg still to play, and an important away goal in the bag.

It was tight and competitive as would be expected. The two teams had proved to be in a class of their own after the full 28-game League season had concluded, and each had managed a 1-0 home win against the other during that programme. There's nothing in it still.

**SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 (Curcija, Coveney)
SYDNEY UNITED 1 (Plesa)
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Man of the Match: Con Blatisis SMEL**

Neither side was able to provide a knock-out blow during what is effectively the first half of the game with direct entry into the Grand Final for the victor. South Melbourne certainly deserved its narrow win, and held a 2-0 lead ten minutes into the second half after Olyroo Michael Curcija netted the first in first-half stoppage time, then lanky Kiwi Vaughan Coveney headed in a corner after 55.

Curcija's opener resulted from good build-up from David Clarkson who had found some space in a wide right position, sending over a cross which you'd expect most players would have given up for a goal-kick

at the far post.

But this was Finals time, and it was captain Paul Trimboli who set his teeth and strained to keep it in, flicking it back to Curcija whose deft touch from inside the six-yard box was sufficient.

Coveney's goal may also not have arisen but for the edge Finals football gives the players.

A through-ball down the right was chased down by Curcija and as a consequence, a corner was won by harrying Joe Vrkic. South's tall defenders moved up, but Coveney - no midget himself - rose highest to head home.

A lesser team might have wilted at that point, but Sydney United have had plenty of practice facing adversity this year, and they are made of sterner stuff.

Just after the hour, in a sweeping move from the heart of defence, the ball

was played to Jason Burns just inside his own half. Burns made ground as the outnumbered South defence backed off. Mile Sterjovski made a clever run and Burns' pass found him facing only Petkovic.

Sterjovski's shot was blocked, the ball ran to Michael Santalab whose shot was in turn blocked by Con Blatisis and the danger cleared.

United had shown it was ready to pounce.

South made a tactical change with nineteen minutes to play, bringing on midfielder Steve Panopoulos for Curcija.

By this change, South had signalled it would be happy to call a halt to proceedings from then on. But the change had no sooner been made than the plan came adrift.

The goal that kept United on track was spectacular and just reward for the endeavour

United had shown all through the contest.

Richard Plesa let one fly from 25 metres after 73 minutes, which crashed in from the underside of the bar, with Michael Petkovic's despairing dive getting a glove to it, but insufficiently so, and silencing the crowd which had started to believe South's path to the Grand Final was assured.

"We needed something like that," Plesa said after the game. "Two-nil was looking pretty bad for us, but an away goal has changed the complexion of the series. I just hit it straight on, and it curled on its own."

The South fans' early good cheer would have disappeared altogether had not Petkovic got a hand to a stoppage-time free-kick from Peter Bennett which was arrowing in at the near post.

There will be players on both sides who will be bringing some of this game into their next encounter. United's Sterjovski and Nathan Day were shadowed all afternoon by Steve Iosofidis and Nick Orlic.

Those match-up had all four players at various times launching appeal hearings with referee Eddie Lennie, but the experienced referee kept things under control, and his cards mostly in his pockets.

Coveney and Curcija will quickly have themselves re-acquainted with Velimir Kupresak. Coveney in particular will have seen how his pace may be worthy of South's exploitation next week.

Neither coach leaves the game with a damaged squad, and the five bookings spread between the sides will be of little tactical disadvantage.

Postecoglou said after

the game: "I was very happy with the way things went. I thought we did exactly what we needed to do. (Sydney United) scored a fantastic goal, so there was no breakdown of our defensive line - it was a great strike from 30 yards.

"If somebody can beat Petkovic from that range, good luck to them. If we can repeat that next week, I'll be very happy."

United's David Mitchell said: "I thought we did very well - it's a difficult place to come and play. I know a lot of teams come and defend when they come here and play South Melbourne, but I thought if we did that we were asking for trouble. (Next week) I don't think (South) will come up and defend. I think they'll want to come up and attack us."

It's all to play for, and a more finely balanced tie would be hard to find.

Bounce beats Hendo and Spirit's finals hopes

By Ted Simmons

A freakish bouncing ball and the accurate boot of Zeljko Babic steered Marconi to a hotly contested 2-1 win over a valiant Northern Spirit in the National Soccer League elimination match at Marconi Stadium on Sunday.

The two goals within three minutes in this second leg fixture will pit Marconi against Perth Glory in the semifinal at the WACA in Perth next Saturday night.

Player-coach Graham Arnold pulled one back for the Spirit in the 82nd minute but Marconi hung on. Attacking midfielder Mike Smith broke the first half deadlock seconds before halftime when he rose to a Chad Gibson corner to head the ball into the far corner of the net.

The goal which sealed the match started was a huge Robbie Hooker kick three minutes into the

second half which landed on the full in the Northern Spirit penalty area.

Spirit keeper Paul Henderson moved out from his goal to block the ball but it bounced high over his head, enabling Babic to quickly run around and slide it into the net.

"I don't blame Henderson. He has not made many mistakes in his first season and has given good service to the club," Spirit coach Graham Arnold said after his side was eliminated from the playoffs.

"I'm very proud of the team because we've come a long way in a short time in our first season."

Marconi coach Frank Farina effectively used defender Darren McDonald to blot out Spirit danger man Kresimir Marusic while Brendan Renaud had a similar marking role on Spirit's Robbie Slater.

Farina said McDonald effectively nullified Ma-

rusic while honours ended even between Slater and Renaud.

Slater was particularly dangerous throughout the game, his control and wide running finding holes in the Marconi defence.

But Marconi keeper Ante Covic and the back line of Dominic Longo and Mark Babic frequently managed to cut out the Spirit offence.

Both teams had numerous chances throughout the game with spectacular blocks halting shots.

"It was a great game of football which could have gone either way with both teams having chances except we took ours," Farina said.

"Spirit took the game to us and we took it back. We tried to slow down play near the end but when Arnold scored in the last ten minutes we had to step up again."

Slater engineered the opening chance in the sixth minute with a cross headed by Matt Bingley onto the crossbar, but the best opening occurred one minute later when Marconi swept upfield.

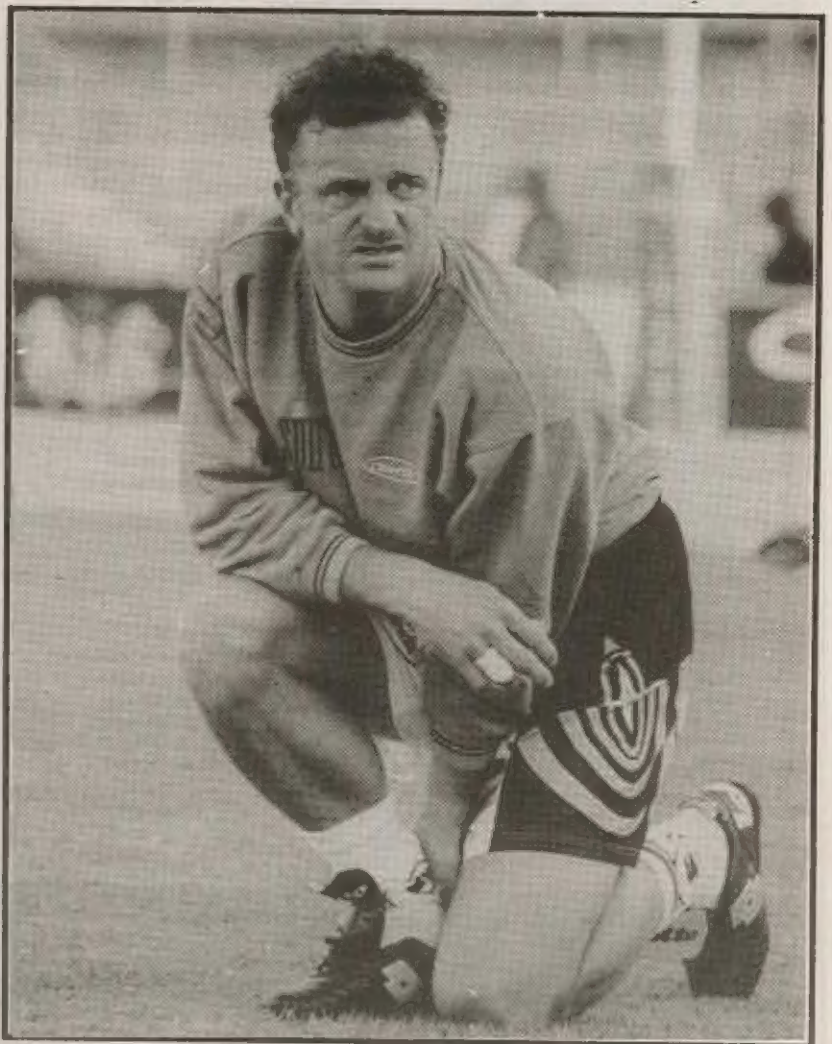
Longo fired a long ball to striker Babic who beat

Arnold and Mark Rudan, drew Henderson out of goal and hit the ball towards the empty net only to see Arnold come from nowhere to clear it off the line.

With Marconi leading 2-nil Spirit almost pulled one back in the 65th when Covic blocked a shot by Clayton Zane, the ball bounced off Buddy Farrah and with Marusic moving in, Longo managed to get a foot to the ball on the line and steer it around the post.

The last 10 minutes found both teams in action in front of the posts with Covic fully tested by the Spirit attackers as they tried to get the one goal which would give them the series on away goals after the first leg had finished 0-0.

McDonald was superb in hassling the Spirit frontline and gave very little away in his constant clashes with his more experienced opponents while Zeljko Babic was acclaimed as man of the match. The match was not as bruising as the first clash and referee Mark Shield only issued two yellow cards.



Player/boss: Northern Spirit's Graham Arnold

SCOREBOARD

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RAM SPORTS

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Blacktown City	15	10	2	3	29	14	32
Bonnyrigg	15	10	1	4	44	25	31
Macarthur Rams	15	10	1	4	28	15	31
Leichhardt Tigers	15	8	2	5	31	23	26
Fairfield Bulls	15	8	2	5	29	27	26
Canterbury	15	7	4	4	24	18	25
Parramatta	14	7	1	6	27	19	22
Bankstown City	15	7	1	7	30	24	22
Ryde City	14	2	4	8	17	25	10
Central Coast	13	2	3	8	11	30	9
Sutherland	14	2	2	10	14	38	8
Eastern Suburbs	14	2	1	11	17	43	7

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Round 14	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Melbourne Sharks	13	9	3	1	33	12	30
Preston Lions	14	9	1	4	32	19	28
Green Gully Cavaliers	13	8	3	2	26	14	27
Fawkner Blues	14	7	2	5	23	16	23
Melbourne Raiders	13	6	3	4	19	20	21
Bentleigh Greens	14	5	5	4	27	16	20
Altona Magic	14	5	3	6	20	30	18
Bulleen Inter Kings	14	4	5	5	17	18	17
South Dandenong	14	4	4	6	23	24	16
Altona East	14	4	4	6	15	21	16
St Albans Saints	14	4	2	8	15	22	14
Spring White Eagles	14	3	4	7	19	26	13
Westvale	13	2	5	6	14	27	11
Sunshine Georgies	14	3	2	9	13	31	11

VICTORIAN STATE LEAGUE
CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg United	7	6	1	0	20	9	19
Lalor United	7	5	1	1	15	6	16
Oakleigh	7	5	0	2	10	5	15
Westgate	7	4	1	2	12	7	13
Nth Geelong	7	3	2	2	9	7	11
Northcote City	7	3	1	3	18	12	10
Western Suburbs	7	3	1	3	11	10	10
Kingston City	7	3	1	3	8	12	10
Melbourne City	7	3	0	4	14	19	9
Doncaster Rovers	7	2	2	3	13	10	8
Yarraville Glory	7	2	1	4	9	13	7
Richmond	7	1	2	4	8	17	5
Springvale City	7	1	1	5	3	14	4
Werribee City	7	0	2	5	6	15	2

VICTORIAN STATE LEAGUE
CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Essendon	7	5	2	0	17	1	17
Frankston Pines	7	4	3	0	22	6	15
Knox City	7	5	0	2	16	5	15
Cranbourne	7	3	3	1	14	9	12
Old Scotch	7	4	0	3	11	11	12
East Richmond	7	3	2	2	9	9	11
Geelong	7	3	2	2	12	15	11
Altona City	7	3	1	3	7	11	10
Thomastown	7	2	3	2	9	9	9
Ringwood City	7	2	1	4	11	19	7
Croydon City	7	1	2	4	7	12	5
Satellite City R	7	1	2	4	5	16	5
Frankston Strikers	7	0	3	4	5	13	3
Diamond Valley	7	0	2	5	10	18	2

SCHOOLS

COMMONWEALTH BANK CUP Rd 2:

Asquith BHS 5	Pittwater HS 1
James Cook BHS 3	Randwick BHS 1
Granville Boys 2	Arthur Phillip 1
Greystanes 4	Parramatta 1
Sydney 2	Mitchell 1
Colo 4	Katoomba 0
Leichhardt 3	Heathcote 0
Gymea 3	Hurstville Boys 0
Kingsgrove North 2	Belmore Boys 0
Keira 4	Wollongong 1
Smiths Hill 2	Corrimal 1
Dapto 1	Kamooka 0
Vicentia 1	Shoalhaven 0
Shield Rd 1:	
Mitchell 3	Doonside 2
Cambridge Park 1	Bidwill 0
Katoomba 4	Blackland 2
Windsor 1-2	Kingswood 1-1
Cranebrook 10	Jamison 3
Rd 2:	
Endeavour 9	Kingsgrove North 2
Penshurst 1	Jannali 0
Wooloware 4	JJ Cahill 0
Meanai 5	Leichhardt 1
Port Hacking 2	Peakhurst 1
Cheltenham 3	Carlingford 2

PRIMARY KO CUP Rd 1

Thornleigh Wt PS 5 Normanhurst W PS 0.

METROPOLITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGES

Rd 2: A:	
Marist Pagewood 2	Marcellin Randwick 1
De La Salle Ashfield 2	CBHS Lewisham 0
La Salle Bankstown 3	Marist North Shore 0
Marist Kogarah 2	St Leo's Wairoonga 0
B:	
Marist Pagewood 2	Marcellin Randwick 2
De La Salle Ashfield 3	CBHS Lewisham 1
Marist North Shore 2	La Salle Bankstown 1
Marist Kogarah 6	St Leo's Wairoonga 0
U/15:	
Marist Pagewood 4	Marcellin Randwick 0
CBHS Lewisham 3	La Salle Ashfield 0
La Salle Bankstown 6	Marist N Shore 0
Marist Kogarah 4	St Leo's Wairoonga 1
U/13:	
Marcellin Randwick 8	Marist Pagewood 1
CBHS Lewisham 1	De La Salle Ashfield 0
Marist North Shore 2	La Salle Bankstown 0
Marist Kogarah 4	St Leo's Wairoonga 1

BILL TURNER CUP

Rd 1:	
Port Hacking 3	Lucas Heights 1
Jannali 3	Kirrawee 0
DLS Carlingbah 2	Cronulla 1
Blakehurst 3	Sydney Tech 1
Randwick Boys 7	Vauchuse 0
Balgowlah Boys 2	Manly 1
Asquith Boys 6	Killara 0
Kingswood 1	St Dominics College 0
St Pauls Penrith 5	St Clair 0
Macquarie Fields 0-5	Patrician Fairfield 0-3
East Hills Boys 1	DLS Revesby 0
Duval 7	Guyra 0
Inverell 6	Warialda 0
St Marys Casino 2	Kyogle 1
Lismore 7	St Johns Woodlawn 2
Tweed River 3-4	St Josephs 3-3
Chatham 8	Buladelah 0
Forster 1-4	St Clare Taree 1-3
Cessnock 3	St Josephs Aberdeen 0
Singleton 3	Hunter Valley 0
St Joels Lochinvar 7	Maitland Grossman 0
Dungog 3-4	Mount View 3-3
Wallsend 3	Waratah 2
Glendale 2	St Marys Gateshead 1
West Wallsend 3	Macquarie College 0
Gosford 6	Kincaid 1
Gorokan 3	Umina 1
Narara Valley 2	The Entrance 1
Tumbi Umbi 8	Gosford Christian 0
Lisarow 1	Henry Kendall 0
Mater Dei 2	Erina 0
Terrigal 4	Woy Woy 0

Wanniasa 4

Dubbo South 3	Lanyon 2
Canobolas 6	Cobar 0
Orange 4	Tottenham 0
Portland 4	James Sheehan 0
Notre Dame 5	Oberon 2
Wodonga Cath 1	Galen College 0
Albury 4	Marian College 0
Kooragang 2	Xavier 0
St Michaels 4	Wagga Wagga 0
Coolamon Central 4	Mt Austin 1
Bomaderry 4	The Rock 3
Moss Vale 3	St Johns Nowra 0
Figtree 2	Picton 0
Warilla 3	Edmund Rice 1
Holy Spirit 2	Albion Park 0
	Kiama 1

ACT

Premier League Division 1:

First Grade	
Burns Club 0	Capital City Suns 4
Uni of Canberra 0	Canberra Deakin 3
Queanbeyan City 3	Gungahlin Juventus 5
Weston Creek 1	Belconnen United 1
Canberra Olympic 0	Monaro 2
Under 23s	
Burns Club 4	Capital City Suns 1
Uni of Canberra 2	Canberra Deakin 1
Queanbeyan City 0	Gungahlin Juventus 18
Weston Creek 1	Belconnen United 1
Canberra Olympic 2	Monaro 3
Under 19s	
Burns Club 0	Capital City Suns 2
Uni of Canberra 4	Canberra Deakin 4
Queanbeyan City 0	Gungahlin Juventus 6
Weston Creek 1	Belconnen United 4
Canberra Olympic 2	Monaro 1

Premier League Division 2:

1st Grade:	
Belwest Foxes 0	O'Connor Knights 2
Tuggeranong 4	Sabres FC 1
White Eagles 0	Cooma 1
Res Grade:	
Belwest Foxes 0	O'Connor Knights 2
Tuggeranong 6	Sabres FC 1
White Eagles 3	Cooma 1

State League:

Division 1:	
Uni of Canberra 1	Belconnen 3
Southern Spirit 2	ANU 9
Valley Blues 2	Canberra City 2
Ginninderra 5	Burns 0
Division 2:	
Uni of Canberra 0	Belconnen 4
Tuggeranong 3	ANU 5
Valley Blues 1	Canberra City 2
Ginninderra 2	Burns 3
Belwest Foxes 6	Juventus 5
Division 3:	
Harmonie 2	Uni of Canberra 2 0
Valley Blues 3	ANU 2
Canberra City 2	Belconnen 5
Uni of Canberra 1 3	Tuggeranong 2
Division 4:	
ANU 2 6	Weston Creek 3
Valley Blues 1	ANU 1 3
Uni of Canberra 12	Burns 1
Harmonie 3	Uni of Canberra 2 1
Masters:	
Canberra City 5	ANU 2
Belwest 4	Uni of Canberra 4
Belconnen 2	White Eagles 4
Kambah Old Boys 4	St Francis 3
Tuggeranong 7	Valley Blues 0
Youth:	
Southern Spirit 2	Belconnen 6
Tuggeranong 1	Radford 0
Belwest 3	Belsouth 2

NEW SOUTH WALES

SYDNEY AMATEUR LEAGUE:

Rd 4 Div 1:	
First Grade:	
Lansvale Zebras 0	Leichhardt 0
Melcheste 5	Enfield Rovers 2
Strathfield 2	Sydney Uni 0
Arncliffe 3	Lansvale Utd 0
Reserve Grade:	
Leichhardt 0	Lansvale Zebras 0
Melcheste 2	Enfield 1
Strathfield 4	Sydney Uni 2
Arncliffe 3	Lansvale Utd 2
Div 2:	
First Grade:	
Dobroyd 2	City Pharoahs 1
Ecuador 2	Roselands 0
Racing 6	Wanderers 0
Eldorado 10	Mindless 0
Reserve Grade:	
Dobroyd 1	City Pharoahs 1
Ecuador 2	Roselands 0
Racing 5	Wanderers 0
Eldorado bt Mindless ft.	
O-35 rd 5:	
Kingsgrove Apollo 3	KBBS 1
Leichhardt 9	Concordia 1
Dulwich Hill 7	Racing 1
Portugal Union 3	Concord 0

NSWSF

SUPER LEAGUE: FIRST GRADE:	
Bonnyrigg 4	Eastern Suburbs 0
Bankstown City 2	Parramatta Eagles 0
Canterbury 3	Fairfield Bulls 1
Macarthur Rams 1	Ryde City 0
Leichhardt Tigers 4	Sutherland Sharks 1
Central Coast 1	Blacktown City 1
Macarthur Rams 4	Eastern Suburbs 1
UNDER 21:	
Bonnyrigg 3	Eastern Suburbs 0
Parramatta Eagles 2	Bankstown City 1
Leichhardt Tigers 4	Sutherland Sharks 1
Fairfield Bulls 1	Canterbury 0
Macarthur Rams 5	Ryde City 1
Blacktown City 3	Central Coast 1
Eastern Suburbs 2	Macarthur Rams 2
UNDER 18:	
Eastern Suburbs 1	Bonnyrigg 0
Parramatta Eagles 4	Bankstown City 0
Leichhardt Tigers 3	Sutherland Sharks 1
Canterbury 4	Fairfield Bulls 0
Ryde City 0	Macarthur Rams 0
Blacktown City 1	Central Coast 0
Macarthur Rams 5	Eastern Suburbs

DIVISION ONE:

FIRST GRADE:	
Dulwich Hill 2	Rockdale City Suns 2
Moorebank Sports 1	Hurstville City 0
Manly Warringah 8	Stannore Hawks 1
Dulwich Hill 2	Rockdale City Suns 2
Illawarra Lions 3	Auburn United 1
St George 3	AC United 0
Penrith Panthers 1	Moorebank Sports 0
UNDER 21:	
Penrith Panthers 4	Bathurst 75 1
Manly Warringah 3	Stannore Hawks 2
Rockdale City Suns 5	Dulwich Hill 1
Illawarra Lions 2	Auburn United 1
AC United 1	St George 1
Hurstville City 3	Moorebank Sports 0
UNDER 18:	
Penrith Panthers 3	Bathurst 75
Stannore Hawks 2	Manly Warringah 1
Dulwich Hill 2	Rockdale City Suns 1
Auburn United 5	Illawarra Lions 0
AC United 5	St George 0
Moorebank Sports 5	Hurstville City 1

DIVISION TWO:

FIRST GRADE:	
Greystanes 1	Mt Pritchard 1
Hajduk Wanderers 5	Belmore Hercules 0
Fraser Park 2	Hills United 0
Arncliffe Scots 2	Hurstville ZSC 2
Sydney University 4	Mt Druitt Town 3
University of NSW 2	Sydney District 1

UNDER 21:

Greystanes 1	Mt Pritchard 1
Hurstville ZSC 7	Arncliffe Scots 1
Hills United 4	Fraser Park 3
Hajduk Wanderers 5	Belmore Hercules 1
Sydney University 1	Mt Druitt Town 1
University of NSW 3	Sydney District 1
UNDER 18:	
Greystanes 0	Mt Pritchard 0
Hurstville ZSC 3	Arncliffe Scots 0
Hills United 9	Fraser Park 0
Hajduk Wanderers 4	Belmore Hercules 1
Mt Druitt Town 2	Sydney University 0
University of NSW 4	Sydney District 3

DIVISION THREE:

FIRST GRADE:	
Western Sydney 3	Parramatta City 1
Hakoah 2	Trasandinos 1
White City 7	Liverpool City 1
Camden Tigers 1	Gladesville United
Parramatta City 6	Maroubra United 1
Colo Colo 3	Maroubra United 0
The Wanderers 4	Prospect United 0
SECOND GRADE:	
Western Sydney 5	Parramatta City 0
Trasandinos 2	Hakoah 2
Gladesville United	Camden Tigers 1
Parramatta City 7	Maroubra United 1
Maroubra United 8	Colo Colo 3
The Wanderers 4	Prospect United 1
White City 10	Liverpool City 1

DIVISION FOUR:

FIRST GRADE:	
Sydney Crescent 4	CSI Schofields 0
Prairiewood United 1	White Valley 0
Springwood 2	Hawkesbury City 1
Auburn Star 1	Granville Green 0
Eastern Creek 2	United Eagles 1
Nepean District 2	Holy Cross Ryde 1
Balmain 1	Marrickville 0
SECOND GRADE:	
CSI Schofields 3	Sydney Crescent 1
Hawkesbury City 2	Springwood 0
Auburn Star 2	Granville Green 1
United Eagles 3	Eastern Creek 3
Prairiewood United 4	White Valley 2
Nepean District 2	Holy Cross Ryde 1
Balmain 2	Marrickville 1

DIVISION FIVE:

FIRST GRADE:	
Bossy 1	Sydney TUSC 0,
Sporting SCC 2	Homenetmen 1
Macquarie Sports 4	Earlwood Hermes
AVA United 6	Liverpool Olympic
Kosciusko 3	Sydney Kings 0
Lithgow Workmen 1	UTS 1
SECOND GRADE:	
Bossy 3	Sydney TUSC 2
Sporting SCC 3	Homenetmen 0,
Macquarie Sports 3	Earlwood Hermes
Liverpool Olympic 2	AVA United 1
Kosciusko 6	Sydney Utd Kings
Kellyville Kolts 5	Sporting SSC 2
Lithgow Workmen 2	UTS 0

SCOREBOARD

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



RAM SPORTS

VICTORIAN STATE LEAGUE

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Stonnington City	7	5	1	1	18	7	16
Moreland City	7	5	1	1	18	8	16
Williamstown	7	4	2	1	19	12	14
South Wantima	7	4	2	1	13	6	14
Fitzroy City	7	3	3	1	17	12	12
South Springvale	7	2	5	0	8	5	11
North Coburg United	7	2	3	2	11	9	9
Pascoe Vale	7	2	2	3	10	14	8
Laverton Park	7	1	3	3	11	14	6
Keilor Park	7	2	0	5	9	15	6
Bell Park	7	1	3	3	7	13	6
Mooroobark	7	1	3	3	6	16	6
Broadmeadows City	7	1	2	4	7	15	5
Banyule City	7	0	2	5	8	16	2

VICTORIAN STATE LEAGUE

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 4:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	7	7	0	0	27	7	21
Lyndale United	7	4	2	1	16	12	14
Sandringham City	7	4	1	2	24	14	13
Croxton Park	7	3	4	0	18	11	13
Melton	7	3	2	2	13	12	11
Lalor	7	3	2	2	13	13	11
Seaford United	7	3	1	3	12	16	10
Sunbury United	7	3	0	4	11	14	9
Keysborough	7	2	1	4	14	12	7
Nunawading City	7	2	1	4	8	14	7
Corio	7	2	1	4	9	19	7
Clifton Hill United	7	1	2	4	13	18	5
Geelong Rangers	7	1	2	4	9	15	5
Chelsea	7	1	1	5	10	20	4

VICTORIAN STATE LEAGUE

PROV'NAL LEAGUE DIV. 1:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Endeavour United	5	5	0	0	18	3	15
Brunswick City	5	4	1	0	8	4	13
Morwell Pegasus	5	4	0	1	14	4	12
Riversdale	5	3	1	1	11	6	10
Sydenham Park	5	3	1	1	15	11	10
Nth Sunshine Eagles	5	2	1	2	10	14	7
Mitcham United	5	2	0	3	10	12	6
South Caulfield	5	1	1	3	12	15	4
Dandenong	5	1	1	3	8	11	4
Monbulk	5	0	1	4	5	11	1
Springvale Condors	5	1	1	3	3	16	1
Templestowe Eagles	5	0	0	5	6	13	0

SOUTH WEST COAST

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Fremantle City	5	4	0	1	49	9	12
Sorrento	5	4	0	1	23	7	12
Western Knights	5	4	0	1	17	7	12
Joondalup	4	3	0	1	13	6	9
Ashfield Bunbury	5	3	0	2	10	8	9
Floreat Athena	5	2	1	2	13	12	7
Bayswater City	5	2	1	2	10	14	7
Inglewood Falcons	5	1	2	2	8	12	5
Cockburn City	5	1	1	3	7	13	4
Kingsway Olympic	4	1	1	2	5	12	4
Perth SC	5	1	0	4	4	11	3
Stirling Lions	5	0	0	5	2	20	0

Granville Assoc 1	Hawkesbury City 1,
Mt Pritchard 1	Camden Tigers 0,
CSI Schofield 3	Hajduk Wanderers 1,
Parramatta City 1	Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 0.
UNDER 15:	
Mt Druitt Town 3	Nepean Assoc 2,
Moorebank Sports 1	Macquarie Sports 0,
Hawkesbury City 2	Granville Assoc 1,
Mt Pritchard 1	Camden Tigers 0,
Hajduk Wanderers 6	CSI Schofields 0,
Parramatta City 4	Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 1.
UNDER 16:	
Mt Druitt Town 3	Nepean Association 1
Macquarie Sports 5	Moorebank Sports 2,
Granville Assoc 0	Hawkesbury City 0,
Mt Pritchard 3	Camden Tigers 2,
Hajduk Wanderers 8	CSI Schofields 0
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 2	Parramatta City 0.
CADET LEAGUE: DIVISION ONE:	
UNDER 11:	
St George 3	Parramatta City 0,
Eastern Suburbs 2	Bonnyrigg 1
Marconi Fairfield 2	Parramatta Eagles 2,
Ryde City 2	Macarthur Rams 1,
Sydney United 3	Leichhardt Tigers 1,
UNDER 12:	
St George 3	Parramatta City 0,
Marconi Fairfield 1	Parramatta Eagles 1,
Macarthur Rams 6	Ryde City 1
Sydney United 7	Leichhardt Tigers 0.
CADET LEAGUE: DIVISION TWO:	
UNDER 11:	

Phoenix Rangers 2	West Wallsend 2
Beresfield United 0	Thornton Park 2
Lake Macquarie 1	Singleton Strikers 5
NEW FM SOCCER LEAGUE RESULTS	
ROUND 5	
UNDER 13'S	
Tingira 2	Oxley 3
Highfields Azzurri v Adamstown Rosebuds	postponed
Maitland 0	Weston 2
Wallsend 3	Manning 2
Cessnock 0	Cardiff 5
UNDER 14'S	
Tingira 0	Oxley 1
Maitland 0	Weston 2
Wallsend 0	Manning 3
Cessnock 1	Cardiff 2
UNDER 15'S	
Tingira 3	Oxley 0
Maitland 1	Weston 0
Wallsend 0	Manning 8
Cessnock 0	Cardiff 7
UNDER 16'S	
Tingira 1	Oxley 3
Maitland 1	Weston 2
Wallsend 0	Manning 2
Cessnock 1	Cardiff 1

QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND CUP: Round 2	
Clairvaux 0	Moggill United 3
Albany Creek 6	Annerley 1
Brisbane City 2	Newmarket 1
Wynnum 2	Bundaberg waves 0
North Pine 0	Ipswich Knights 3
North Star 2	Brothers United 1
Grange Thistle 4	Park Ridge 0
Acacia Ridge 1	Uni of Qld 2
Redlands United 0	Rochdale Rovers 6
Mt Gravatt	Capalaba 0
Toowoomba United 5	Samford 1
Jimboomba 1	Bayside United 2
Taringa Rovers 6	Margate 2
Gold Coast City 6	Mitchellton 0
Oxley United 0	Brisbane Lions 6
Rocklea United 2	Souths United 3

VICTORIA

"EAT WELL LIVE WELL" PREMIER LEAGUE:	
Firsts: Rd 14:	
Melbourne Raiders Green Gully Caval'Rs	St. Albans Saints 0
Albany Creek 6	Fawkner Blues 2
Brisbane City 2	Altona Magic 1
Wynnum 2	Sunshine Georgies 1
North Pine 0	Spring White Eagles 1
North Star 2	Westvale Pt. Melbourne Sharks
Grange Thistle 4	South Dandenong 0
Acacia Ridge 1	Bulleen Inter Kings 1
Redlands United 0	CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1:
Mt Gravatt	Firsts: Rd 7:
Toowoomba United 5	Melbourne City 3
Jimboomba 1	Lalor United 1
Taringa Rovers 6	Nth Geelong 1
Gold Coast City 6	Heidelberg United 2,
Oxley United 0	Western Suburbs 2,
Rocklea United 2	Richmond 1
	Yarraville Glory 0
	Werribee City 1
	CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2:
	Firsts: Rd 7:
	Essendon 5
	Frankston Pines 1
	Thomastown/Regent 2
	Knox City 5
	Ringwood City 2
	Cranbourne Comets 0
	Diamond Valley Utd 1
	CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3:
	Firsts: Rd 7:
	North Coburg Utd 1
	Mooroobark 2
	Bell Park 1
	Broadmeadows City 0
	Fitzroy City 1
	Keilor Park 1
	Williamstown 2

South Wantima 1	Pascoe Vale 1
CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 4:	
Firsts: Rd 7:	
Chelsea 2	Croxton Park 2
Langwarrin 6	Sunbury United 2
Geelong Rangers 2	Clifton Hill United 2,
Keysborough 0	Lyndale United 1,
Corio 2	Seaford United 1,
Melton 3	Sandringham City 2,
Nunawading City 0	Lalor 01999
PROV'NAL LEAGUE DIV. 1:	
Firsts: Rd 5:	
South Caulfield 3	Sydenham Park 4,
Morwell Pegasus 4	Mitcham United 2,
Endeavour United 8	Springvale Condors 0,
Riversdale 3	Templestowe Eagles 1,
Brunswick City 2	Monbulk 1
Dandenong 2	Nth Sunshine Eagles 3
PROV'NAL LEAGUE DIV. 2 NW:	
Firsts: Rd 5:	
Meadow Park 0	Elwood City 1
South Yarra 1	Ballarat 2
Keon Park 2	Somerton City 4
Uni. Of Melbourne 2	Hoppers Crossing 3,
Mill Park 6	Broadmeadows Utd 2,
Glenroy 3	Melbourne Uni 2
PROV'NAL LEAGUE DIV. 2 SE:	
Firsts: Rd 5:	
Monash University 1	Waverley Wand 6,
Doveton 3	Dingley City 1
Noble Park 2	Braeside United 1,
Ashburton 1	Brandon Park 2

Dandenong Inter 3	Heatherton United 3,
Clayton 4	Newb/Yallourn 1
PROV'NAL LEAGUE DIV. 3 NW:	
Firsts: Rd 5:	
Brimbank City 3	Northern United 1
La Trobe University 1	Flemington Falcons 4,
Keilor United 0	Whittlesea United 4,
North Glenroy 4	West Preston 2
Darebin United 2	Watsonia Heights 0,
Brimbank 0	North Reservoir 1
PROV'NAL LEAGUE DIV. 3 SE:	
Firsts: Rd 5:	
Endeavour Hills 1	Ivanhoe United 3,
Noble Park United 1	Beaumaris 0
Thornbury United 4	Newport United 3
Old Camberwell 0	Rowville Eagles 0
Parkmore 1	Collingwood City 5,
North Caulfield 1	Moreland United 2
THIRDS LEAGUE CENTRAL: Firsts: Rd 2:	
Sandringham 0	Old Scotch 4
Stonnington City 2	Central Park Celtic 0
THIRDS LEAGUE N/W: Firsts: Rd 2:	
Moreland City 1	Essendon 4
Bye Brunswick City	
THIRDS LEAGUE S/E: Firsts: Rd 2:	
Monbulk 3	Moorabbin City O/B 3
Bye Mitcham United	
Keysborough 3	Central Park Rangers 0
VETERANS LEAGUE CENTRAL:	
Firsts: Rd 2:	
Stonnington City 0	Beaumaris 6
Old Scotch 5	Ashburton 3
Juventus Old Boys 2	Collingwood City 1
VETERANS LEAGUE N/W: Firsts: Rd 2:	
Moreland City 3	Sunshine Blues 3
Bye Brimbank	
VETERANS LEAGUE S/E: Firsts: Rd 2:	
Parkmore 5	Brighton Old Boys 2,
Ringwood Rovers 5	Noble Park United 2,
Old Camberwell 4	
Parkmore 3	
North Caulfield 2	

"EAT WELL LIVE WELL" PREMIER LEAGUE:	
Under 21's:	
St. Albans Saints 0	Fawkner Blues 1,
Altona Magic 2	Bentleigh Greens 4,
Sunshine Georgies 0	Altona East 1
Spring White Eagles 3	Preston Lions 4
South Dandenong 3	Bulleen Inter Kings 3
CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1:	
Reserves: Rd 7:	

Melbourne City 3	Northcote City 1,
Lalor United 0	Springvale City 4
Nth Geelong 3	Heidelberg United 1,
Oakleigh 1	Western Suburbs 0,
Richmond 1	Doncaster Rovers 1,
Yarraville Glory 0	Westgate 3
Werribee City 1	Kingston City 2
CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2:	
Reserves: Rd 7:	
Essendon 3	East Richmond 0,
Frankston Pines 8	Satellite City Rov'S 0,
Thomastown 1	Croydon City Arr 3,
Knox City 5	Geelong 1
Ringwood City 2	Frankston Strikers 1,
Cranbourne Comets 1	Altona City 1
Diamond Valley Utd 4	Old Scotch 2
CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3:	
Reserves: Rd 7:	
North Coburg United 1	Banyule City 2,
Mooroobark 2	Laverton Park 2,
Bell Park 1	Stonnington City 0,
Broadmeadows City 1	Moreland City 2,
Fitzroy City 2	South Springvale 3,
Keilor Park 3	Williamstown 1
South Wantima 1	Pascoe Vale 2
CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 4:	
Reserves: Rd 7:	
Chelsea 0	Croxton Park 2
Lingwood 0	Sunbury United 0,
Geelong Rangers 1	Clifton Hill United 1,
Keysborough 1	Lyndale United 3,
Corio 1	Seaford United 0,
Melton 5	Sandringham City 1,

Nunawading City 4	Lalor 1
PROV'NAL LEAGUE DIV. 1:	
Reserves: Rd 5:	
South Caulfield 1	Sydenham Park 5,
Morwell Pegasus 2	Mitcham United 1,
Endeavour United 0	Springvale Condors 3,
Riversdale 2	Templestowe Eagles 0,
Brunswick City 1	Monbulk 0
Dandenong 5	Nth Sunshine Eagles 0
1999 PROV'NAL LEAGUE DIV. 2 NW:	
Reserves: Rd 5:	
Meadow Park 1	Elwood City 1
South Yarra 4	Ballarat 2,
Keon Park 2	Somerton City 5
Uni. Of Melbourne 1	Hoppers Crossing 3,
Mill Park 0	Broadmeadows UTD
0, Glenroy 0	Melbourne Uni 1
1999 PROV'NAL LEAGUE DIV. 2 SE:	
Reserves: Rd 5:	
Monash University 1	Waverley Wand 4,
Doveton 1	Dingley City 2
Noble Park 3	Braeside United 2,
Ashburton 4	Brandon Park 0
Dandenong Inter 0	Heatherton United 4,
Clayton 1	Newborough/Yal 0
1999 PROV'NAL LEAGUE DIV. 3 NW:	
Reserves: Rd 5:	
Brimbank City 4	Northern United 5
La Trobe University 1	Flemington Falcons 1,
Keilor United 3	Whittlesea United 2,
North Glenroy 6	West Preston 0
Darebin United 2	Watsonia Heights 0,
Brimbank 0	North Reservoir 6
1999 PROV'NAL LEAGUE DIV. 3 SE:	
Reserves: Rd 5:	
Endeavour United 5	Ivanhoe United 2,
Noble Park United 1	Beaumaris 0
Thornbury United 1	Newport United 1
Old Camberwell 4	Rowville Eagles 1,
Parkmore 3	Collingwood City 4,
North Caulfield 2	Moreland United 3

GIPPSLAND SOCCER LEAGUE

DIVISION 1	
First Grade	Newborough 0
Churchill 5	Monash 0
Drouin 1	Moe United 1
Fortuna 2	Sale City 1
Warragul 7	Traralgon City 0
Traralgon Olymp 0	
Reserve Grade	
Churchill 6	Newborough 1
Drouin 2	Monash 3
Fortuna 1	Moe United 2
Warragul 1	Sale City 0
Traralgon Olymp 2	Traralgon City 5
DIVISION 2	

Fortuna 5	Trafalgar Vikings 1
Moe United 2	Traralgon City 2

WEST AUSTRALIA

SOCCER WEST COAST

PREMIER LEAGUE	
First Grade	
Bayswater City 1	Fremantle City 4
Stirling Lions 0	Floreat Athena 3
Ashfield Bunbury 2	Cockburn City 1
Western Knights 4	Perth SC 1
Sorrento 6	Inglewood Falcons 0
Joondalup	Kingsway Olympic
Reserve Grade	
Bayswater City 5	Fremantle City 1
Stirling Lions 1	Floreat Athena 1
Ashfield Bunbury 0	Cockburn City 1
Western Knights 1	Perth SC 2
Sorrento 7	Inglewood Falcons 0
Joondalup	Kingsway Olympic
Under 18s	
Bayswater City 4	Fremantle City 2
Stirling Lions 0	Floreat Athena 7
Ashfield Bunbury 0	Cockburn City 2
Western Knights 0	Perth SC 4
Sorrento 2	Inglewood Falcons 0
Joondalup	Kingsway Olympic
DIVISION 1	
First Grade	
Perth City 5	Stirling Suns 0

Balcatta 0	Swan IC 3
Bassendean 1	Rockingham City 1
Leeming Strikers 1	Queens Park 2
Dianella 2	Southside United 0
Wanneroo City 3	Armadale 2
Reserve Grade	
Perth City 3	Stirling Suns 1
Balcatta 1	Swan IC 1
Bassendean 0	Rockingham City 3
Leeming Strikers 0	Queens Park 3
Dianella 2	Southside United 6
Wanneroo City 1	Armadale 0
Under 18s	
Perth City 1	Stirling Suns 1
Balcatta 0	Swan IC 6
Bassendean 4	Rockingham City 8
Leeming Strikers 4	Queens Park 0
Dianella 0	Southside United 2
Wanneroo City 3	Armadale 0

OTTIE ABONYI - AN AUSSIE LEGEND : Part 4

GREG STOCK continues his in-depth interview with OTTIE ABONYI, one of the fastest players to ever pull on a green and gold shirt - and one of the best.

Jimmy Mackay, Ray Baartz and Australia at the World



TO BE CONTINUED

GREG STOCK continues his discussion on the vital qualifier for the 1974 World Cup.

GS: Now where we you when Jimmy Mackay put the goal away that got us to the World Cup finals.

AA: "I guess you remember it fairly well."

AA: "I'll never forget that goal."

"There it comes, boom thirty yards."

"He just whacked the ball and it ended in the top corner."

GS: The best goal in Australia's rich soccer history.

AA: "It's funny because I played with Jimmy for a number of years and as much as I admire him I never ever remember him scoring a goal, not even in training sessions."

"I don't even remember Jimmy or Manfred Schaefer ever scoring a goal during hundreds and hundreds of practice sessions (laughing)".

GS: Was it a dead ball situation?

AA: "No, actually I think it was a free kick that Jimmy Rooney played to him and he just hit first time."

"He got a pass from Jim Rooney he virtually caught it on the half drop volley."

GS: I bet the celebration would have memorable that night.

AA: "Oh, you've got no idea. You can't describe it. I mean to know that you actually made it to the World Cup and we went through hell as you can appreciate, again you got all the records."

"The number of games in the number of countries that we had to go through and to play the best in Asia."

"I mean we had to play THE best, not the fourth, or not the third, not the second but we had to play everybody."

"Japan, Korea, Iran we had to finish on top to qualify."

"Now I'm not knocking the present team but they had to finish fourth to get into France whereas we had

to finish first so again it was extremely hard and I often think I honestly don't know how we made it."

"Remember all these guys are now full-time professionals."

"There is not one player in the Australian team playing now who is a part timer."

"A lot of people don't even talk about or mention that we all had jobs."

"I mean Manfred Schaefer was a milkman for arguments sake, Peter Wilson was working in a coalmine, I worked as a painter; everybody had a full time job and we just played soccer purely on a part time basis."

"So we were the first and only virtually part time team who ever made it to a World Cup final where there was only sixteen teams not thirty two or twenty four".

couple of decent results against visiting overseas teams but that was possibly one of the biggest (results) up to that point when we beat Uruguay in Sydney 2-0.

"If I remember rightly there was probably two other scores that stand out in my mind, that was beating Greece in '69 while that was the first time that we beat a European side and then in '70 beating Greece in Greece 3-1."

"So there were two but then of course there was Uruguay because they had won the World Cup twice."

"That was something special."

GS: You remember the infamous Ray Baartz incident, when he was karate chopped by a Uruguayan player?

AA: "Oh yeah, very

the corner kick because everything just stopped, Baartz went down and the game was held up for, I don't know, five, seven, eight minutes - I don't know."

"Oh geez, I remember like it was yesterday."

GS: Did the Australian players step in and start anything at that stage?

AA: "Well to be quite fair I really didn't see it because I had my back to it going out to take a corner kick and next minute I heard the roar of the crowd and I thought what the hell is going on."

"And as I turned around I believe Baartz was hit and he was on the ground and of course a few players that were nearby saw the whole incident and they all rushed in and there was a bit of a scuffle but it's up to the referee."

thought, well actually we were convinced, and he was too, from there on he'll be paralysed for life."

GS: That incident must have affected the Australian camp as Ray Baartz was one of the regular starters in the Socceroos side?

AA: "Well not only that he was one of the better players but he was one of the oldest players not in terms of age but he was with the team right from the word go like most of us. It was a tremendous blow to the team."

GS: The side then left Australia for Germany via Switzerland?

AA: "Yes three games in Switzerland."

"Well first of all we played on the way in places like Jakarta and Hong Kong and we

to two weeks as part of our build-up."

"We played three games in Switzerland all against first division clubs. Young Boys, Neuchatel and a third team, three (Swiss first division) club sides."

And from there we went onto Germany."

GS: It must have been a bit exciting for a team of part timers from Down Under?

AA: "Yeah it was one of those teams that probably only comes along once in a blue moon that (has) not only good players but our friendship was just tremendous, it was just like a family."

"And of course our confidence was growing too."

GS: Was Rale Rasic playing a reasonably attacking game or more a

(with) Beckenbauers and Mullers.

"So he had to be cautious."

"In that particular tournament Haiti I think made it in the '74 world cup."

"Haiti and another team, Zaire, from the south of Africa - they were copping eight and nine nils."

"It sounds silly but to lose only 3-nil against West Germany again would have to go down as one of the greatest results ever."

GS: And 0-0 against Chile was a good result too?

AA: "Yeah, that's right."

"I mean alright we didn't score in three games but we got a point which I suppose is something and we played against three



GS: Going into '74, you also played in the Uruguay series.

AA: "Yes, two games. One in Melbourne, 0-0, and 2-nil in Sydney."

GS: That was the first time the world really stood up and took notice that the Socceroos were a world class team.

AA: "Australia had a

much so."

"I was taking a corner kick at the time and that's when it happened."

"I went to take a corner from the right wing and Baartz, like everybody else, was in the box waiting for the corner to be taken and the guy just karate chopped him from behind."

"I didn't end up taking

GS: It's hard to imagine something so blatant as that happening on a football field during an international friendly.

AA: "Yeah exactly."

"Baartz went home and apparently at two in the morning he was totally paralysed."

"He was rushed to hospital and everybody

ended up in Tel Aviv Israel for a ten day's training camp."

"We played against Israel but it was mainly used as a training camp."

"Our preparation for the World Cup we played against Israel I think was only the one full international and from there we went to Switzerland again for another ten days

defensive game at that stage?"

AA: "I think he was a bit cautious and I can understand that."

"In the next couple of weeks you'd be facing teams like East Germany, West Germany and Chile."

"I mean, to ever think that Australia would play against West Germany, the best team in the world

extremely bloody good teams."

"I mean when you think East Germany were the only team to beat West Germany in the tournament, 1-nil, so you actually played against the world champions and you played against the team who beat the world champions."